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Songs of Freedom

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# The Canterbury Poets.

EDITED BY WILLIAM SHARP.

SONGS OF FREEDOM.

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**SONGS OF FREEDOM.**  
SELECTED & EDITED,  
WITH AN INTRODUCTION,  
BY H. S. SALT.

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## PREFACE.

---

"The most unfailing herald, companion, and follower of the awakening of a great people, to work a beneficial change in opinion or institution, is poetry."—*Shelley*.

"I say, too, we are not to look so much to changes, ameliorations, and adaptations in Politics, as to those of Literature, and thence domestic Sociology."—*Whitman*.

THE purpose which I have kept in view in the compilation and grouping of these *Songs of Freedom* has been twofold. It has been my object, in the first place, to present an adequate collection of English and American poems illustrative of the growth of the revolutionary ideal—national, social, and intellectual—during the past hundred years, and of the various forms and phases through which that ideal has passed; and, secondly, to arrange the volume in such a manner as to make it a record of the men no less than of the movement, of freedom's singers as well as of freedom's songs. While interpreting the term "freedom" in a liberal and comprehensive sense, I have selected only what I judge to be in some way notable productions, whether by virtue of their literary excellence or historic association; and I have for the most part, though by no means

invariably, avoided the quotation of mere extracts from poems which were too long to be inserted in full. Translations have been altogether excluded, as scarcely coming within the proper scope of the work.

The “love of liberty,” in the full meaning which those words convey to us, is a sentiment of comparatively recent date. From the earliest times, of course, men have struggled and suffered for national and civil freedom, and it would be easy to show from ancient and mediæval literature how the foreign invader and the domestic tyrant have alike been a theme for the patriotic poet’s denunciation. But not until the second half of the eighteenth century—not until Voltaire and Rousseau had unmasked the impostures of a “religion” which represses thought, and of a “civilisation” which represses nature—did there arise that intense passion for liberty, in all its manifold aspects, which has been the chief inspiration of the modern democratic movement. Then, first, freedom began to be regarded as not merely the hereditary privilege of some favoured class or community, but a principle of world-wide extent, the natural and inalienable birthright of every member of the whole human race. Whatever we may think of the theory of “natural rights” (and the controversy concerning it is mostly a mere battle over words), it has undeniably given a vast impulse and extension to the modern ideal of freedom.

These subversive doctrines, which took visible effect in the American Declaration of Independence in 1776, and in the French Revolution of

1789, are largely and unmistakably represented in the English poetry of the last quarter of the eighteenth century and the first quarter of the nineteenth; and it will be observed that the first division of the following *Songs of Freedom* is made to cover that period. A typical example of the reluctance of many men of letters to recognise the debt which our literature owes to the Revolution, may be seen in the attempt of the editor of *The Golden Treasury of Songs and Lyrics* to disconnect the "splendid national achievements of our recent poetry" from what he styled "the frantic follies and criminal wars that at the time disgraced the least essentially civilised of our foreign neighbours."\* Now it is true enough that the French Revolution was itself a consequence of "that far wider and greater spirit, which, through enquiry and doubt, through pain and triumph, sweeps mankind round the circles of its gradual development"; but the Revolution was nevertheless the crowning and most notable expression of that spirit, and, as such, reacted powerfully, in its turn, on all subsequent manifestations. It proclaimed and popularised everywhere that modern concept of freedom which is so essentially different from all that preceded it.

The immediate forerunners of the new democratic poetry were Cowper, Crabbe, Blake, and Burns, who all dwelt with much insistence on the tyranny and inhumanity of various forms of social and political injustice. The name of Robert Burns,

\* Edition of 1861: "Summary of Book Fourth." This singular comment is omitted in the latest edition.

in particular, must ever be held in honour by those who value liberty; for though but few of his poems treat directly of that theme, they are all more or less pervaded by an indomitable spirit of independence, and his famous “A Man’s a Man for a’ That” may be said to strike the keynote of these introductory songs of freedom—the assertion of the natural equality and personal dignity of mankind.

It is worth observing that the earliest post-revolution literature took a philosophical rather than a poetical form; it is not with the revolution itself, but with the reaction consequent on the apparent failure of revolutionary hopes, that the great poetry of the Lake School begins. A deep sense of disappointment is clearly traced in Coleridge’s magnificent “Ode to France,” and in the dejected tone that characterised most of Wordsworth’s fine political sonnets; while Southey, recoiling still more vehemently from the spirit of his juvenile “Wat Tyler,” became a renegade and traitor to the popular cause.

This political despondency was far from being strange or unaccountable. The first quarter of the present century was described by Sydney Smith as “an awful period for any one who ventured to maintain Liberal opinions;” and during the term of the Regency, in particular, English liberty was ruthlessly trampled under foot. “In such an age as this”—so Leigh Hunt wrote—“the world requires the example of a spirit not so prostrate as its own, to make it believe that all hearts are not alike kept under, and that the hope of reformation

is not everywhere given up." Fortunately such encouragement was even then at hand, for in the writings of Byron and Shelley,—notably in those of Shelley, which coincide in date pretty closely with the period of the Regency,—we have as strenuous and sustained a vindication of human freedom, as determined a protest against conventional authority, as can be found in English literature.

What is especially remarkable in Shelley's outlook is the largeness and breadth of his vision. So far from being the blind fanatic which some critics have represented him, he saw more clearly perhaps than any man of his time—certainly more clearly than any of his fellow-poets—that the desired reformation must be effected not in one field but in several, that social freedom is as indispensable as political and intellectual freedom, and furthermore that each individual must emancipate himself from the bondage of personal prejudice and desire. The charge that Shelley wasted his breath in idle denunciation of kings and priests, while overlooking the deeper causes of human subjection, is due to sheer ignorance of his writings, for no poet has ever more plainly pointed to the fact that true liberty cannot be co-existent with penury and starvation, and that social inequality is primarily due to the unequal distribution of wealth. It was for this reason that Shelley was deeply studied and reverenced by the leaders of no less practical and important a movement than Chartism.

In this respect we note in Shelley the culmination of a distinct poetical epoch. The prophet

and pioneer of a new social order, he yet left no direct successor to carry on his revolutionary work; and it may be said that his death in 1822 marks the close of the great literary outburst which signalled the commencement of the century. "The disappearance of Shelley from the world," wrote T. L. Beddoes in 1824, "seems, like the tropical setting of that luminary to which his poetical genius can alone be compared, with reference to the companions of his day, to have been followed by instant darkness and owl-season." There ensued a period of about fifteen years which was not illuminated by any poetry of a high order; indeed, it was not until after twice fifteen years that there arose a poet of Democracy qualified to be considered in any degree an adequate successor to the author of *Prometheus Unbound*.

The second division of our subject coincides, roughly speaking, with the second quarter of the century. A new impulse was given to democratic songs by the political and social excitement that commenced with the Reform Bill of 1832, and culminated in the outbreak of 1848—a movement which was represented in England by the Anti-Corn Law and Chartist agitations, and in Ireland by a revival of national spirit which led to an abortive rebellion,\* while in America it was the abolition of negro-slavery that formed the ideal

\* Lack of space has prevented me from doing full justice to the wealth of the Irish revolutionary songs, and the names of many patriotic singers are unavoidably omitted in the following selections.

of the emancipators. This simultaneous ferment produced, alike in England and Ireland and America, a crop of spirited and excellent poetry, which, if it cannot be classed with the work of great imaginative writers, has the merit of being spontaneous and stirring, and admirably adapted to effect the purpose of its authors. I refer to the poems of such men as W. J. Linton, Ernest Jones, and Gerald Massey in England; Thomas Davis, Clarence Mangan, and D'Arcy McGee in Ireland; Lowell and Whittier in America.

I trust that, in saying this, I shall not be supposed to underrate these real, if "minor" poets, as compared with their "greater" brethren; on the contrary, I hold that a poem informed by the genuine passion which love of humanity calls forth—a poem such as Thomas Davis's "*Native Swords*," or Ernest Jones's "*Song of the Lower Classes*"—is often in the truest sense a greater work, and more deserving of immortality, than many of the productions of misinformed, or indifferent, or purely "academic" genius. It is a remarkable fact, and worth a trifle more consideration than critics are disposed to afford it, that neither Tennyson nor Browning, neither our great "representative" poet, nor our great "intellectual" poet, was cognisant of the real drift of the social movement that dates from the stormy years of the 'Forties. Judged from the democratic standpoint (which, of course, is only one standpoint out of several, but not on that account to be neglected), these great poets must be admitted to have left the work to men of less genius, but truer social

instincts, than themselves ; and to these lesser men will be the greater honour.

Where, then, is the great singer of modern democracy ? Who can voice its myriad demand for freedom and justice as Shelley voiced the high and sanguine aspirations of the early years of the century ? In England no such poet has yet made his appearance ; but in Walt Whitman we find another epoch-making writer, a worthy successor to Shelley—unlike him, it is true, in a thousand ways, yet manifesting in a sterner and rougher form the same unquenchable spirit of freedom, the same unalterable spirit of love. We know, of course, all the critical objections that are urged against Whitman's "barbaric yawp" and alleged lack of style ; but then we remember that Shelley's poetry—"drivelling prose run mad," as the *Quarterly* described it—was scarcely less distasteful to the artistic susceptibilities of seventy years back ! And if, as seems probable, there be needed not only a fresh impulse of thought, to create a new wave of poetry, but also a new vehicle of poetic expression (a need which would certainly arise, if anywhere, in the case of that poetry which has a revolutionary import), we can realise the supreme significance of Walt Whitman as a singer of democracy. He has given us a new ideal of universal comradeship ; and he has given us a new method of embodying that ideal. His name inevitably stands at the head of the present era of revolutionary song.

During this later period the stream of national and democratic poetry, English, Irish, and Ameri-

can, has flowed unchecked; it is only necessary to refer to such well-known names as those of A. C. Swinburne,\* James Thomson, Joaquin Miller, Robert Buchanan, Roden Noel, and John Boyle O'Reilly. Of recent years it has been in the progress of the "social revolution"—the emancipation of the working classes from economic serfdom—that the ideal of liberty has been mainly centred; and now again, as during the Chartist movement, a number of singers are beginning to give expression to these hopes. Of these, three at least, as typical of the several forms of the movement, demand special mention. William Morris, as he presents himself in his later writings, is a sterling poet of democracy, a living witness to the fact that the revolutionary faith, so far from being detrimental to the highest artistic instincts, is a most efficient preservative of them. In Edward Carpenter's *Towards Democracy* we have a great work of profound sympathetic insight, too esoteric, no doubt, for immediate or general acceptance, yet not to be lightly passed over by any earnest student of democracy in its inner spiritual significance. And lastly, Francis Adams's *Songs of the Army of the Night*, a notable little volume which first appeared in Australia, is anarchist rather than socialist in tone, for while it is infinitely tender and compassionate towards all that is simple and human and unsophisticated, it is fierce, vindictive,

\* I regret that I am not permitted to include any of Mr. Swinburne's *Songs before Sunrise* in this volume. His fine and just recognition of the great singer of modern democracy, in the stanzas addressed "To Walt Whitman in America," would have been especially appropriate.

vitriolic even, in its scathing hatred of the respectable and sham-decent that enthral us.

To sum up—I regard Shelley and Whitman as the two most signal embodiments of the revolutionary spirit during the past century; but, as we have seen, there have been many other singers to testify to the same cause with scarcely less enthusiasm, and all have been animated at heart by one and the same conviction. The forms of freedom are many, and are largely determined and developed, in each era, by political and social conditions, so that we find the ideal varying, externally, in each successive period; but the inner spirit, that underlies all these manifestations, is essentially identical throughout. Whether it be Burns, asserting the natural equality of man; or Shelley applying a similar axiom to every grade of authority; or Whittier and Lowell, denouncing the horrors of negro-slavery; or the poets of “Young Ireland,” with the dream of national independence for ever before their eyes; or the Chartist and socialist singers, drawing their moral from the close inter-connection of poverty and wealth—in every case it has been the same love of human liberty that has been the inspiration of the song.

It would be easy to point out superficial contradictions between the utterances of one period and of another; for example, the “free competition” which was glorified as a panacea by the anti-corn-law rhymers of 1830, is denounced by the socialists of sixty years later as a delusion and sham. But though the battle-ground and watchword of liberty may be altered, and though the “liberty” of one

period may even become the “tyranny” of the next, there is no change in the spirit of those who gather round the revolutionary standard; in whatever age they lived, they would fight on that side, as surely as their adversaries would rank among the upholders of inequality and restriction. The *name* of freedom may be misused, and degraded, and associated with much that is absolutely at variance with it; the *thing* is for ever one and unchangeable, and will not be misinterpreted by those who have the true love of it at heart.

Finally, it must be repeated that liberty is, as yet, an ideal rather than a reality—a fair but intangible vision which has long eluded the eager grasp of its worshippers. Again and again have the soldiers of freedom appeared to be on the point of capturing the central stronghold of the enemy; again and again has the tyranny rearisen in some new and unexpected quarter, and the battle has been bequeathed anew from one age to another, with the accompanying legacy of suffering, self-sacrifice, and privation. Our *Songs of Freedom* must therefore of necessity be in great part songs of slavery, for it is the evils of the present that, by very contrast, enhance and emphasise the brighter visions of the future. Yet there is no need, on this account, to adopt the despondent views expressed by Coleridge in his “Ode to France.” The quest of liberty is not “profitless”; our poets of democracy have not sung in vain. Link by link the chains of serfdom are broken: step by step man advances towards that perfect freedom which can only be attained by the temporary failure—in other words,

the eventual success — of innumerable earlier efforts.

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H. S. S.

PART I.



# Songs of Freedom.

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*ROBERT BURNS.*

1759—1796.

## POETICAL INSCRIPTION

### FOR AN ALTAR TO INDEPENDENCE.

THOU of an independent mind,  
With soul resolved, with soul resigned ;  
Prepared Power's proudest frown to brave,  
Who wilt not be, nor have, a slave ;  
Virtue alone who dost revere,  
Thy own reproach alone dost fear—  
Approach this shrine and worship here.

---

### A MAN'S A MAN FOR A' THAT.

Is there, for honest poverty,  
That hangs his head, and a' that ?  
The coward slave, we pass him by,  
We daur be puir, for a' that !

*SONGS OF FREEDOM.*

For a' that, and a' that,  
 Our toils obscure and a' that,  
 The rank is but the guinea stamp—  
 The man's the gowd for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,  
 Wear hoddin-grey and a' that ;  
 Gi'e fools their silks, and knaves their wine—  
 A man's a man for a' that :  
 For a' that, and a' that,  
 Their tinsel show and a' that,  
 The honest man, though ne'er sae puir,  
 Is king o' men for a' that.

Ye see yon birkie, ca'ed a lord,  
 Wha struts, and stares, and a' that ;  
 Though hundreds worship at his word,  
 He's but a coof for a' that :  
 For a' that, and a' that,  
 His riband, star, and a' that ;  
 The man of independent mind,  
 He looks and laughs at a' that.

A king can make a belted knight,  
 A marquis, duke, and a' that ;  
 But an honest man's aboon his micht,  
 Gude faith, he maunna fa' that !  
 For a' that, and a' that,  
 Their dignities and a' that,  
 The pith o' sense and pride o' worth  
 Are higher ranks than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may,  
 As come it will for a' that,  
 That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,  
 May bear the gree and a' that.  
 For a' that, and a' that—  
 It's comin' yet, for a' that,  
 When man to man, the warld o'er,  
 Shall brithers be for a' that.

---

FROM "THE COTTER'S SATURDAY  
 NIGHT."

O SCOTIA, my dear, my native soil,  
 For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent !  
 Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil  
 Be blest with health and peace and sweet content !  
 And, O ! may Heaven their simple lives prevent  
 From Luxury's contagion, weak and vile !  
 Then, howe'er crowns and coronets be rent,  
 A virtuous populace may rise the while,  
 And stand a wall of fire around their much-loved Isle.

O Thou ! who poured the patriotic tide  
 That streamed through Wallace's undaunted heart ;  
 Who dared to nobly stem tyrannic pride,  
 Or nobly die, the second glorious part,  
 (The patriot's God peculiarly thou art,  
 His friend, inspirer, guardian, and reward !)  
 O never, never Scotia's realm desert ;  
 But still the patriot, and the patriot bard,  
 In bright succession raise, her ornament and guard !

**BANNOCKBURN.****ROBERT BRUCE'S ADDRESS TO HIS ARMY.**

SCOTS, wha ha'e wi' Wallace bled !  
 Scots, wham Bruce has aften led !  
 Welcome to your gory bed,  
 Or to glorious victorie !

Now's the day, and now's the hour;  
 See the front o' battle lower !  
 See approach proud Edward's power—  
 Edward ! chains and slaverie !

Wha will be a traitor knave ?  
 Wha will fill a coward's grave ?  
 Wha sae base as be a slave ?  
 Traitor ! coward ! turn and flee !

Wha for Scotland's king and law  
 Freedom's sword will strongly draw,  
 Free-man stand, or free-man fa',  
 Caledonian, on wi' me !

By oppression's woes and pains !  
 By your sons in servile chains !  
 We will drain our dearest veins,  
 But they shall—they shall be free !

Lay the proud usurpers low !  
 Tyrants fall in every foe !  
 Liberty's in every blow !  
 Forward ! let us do, or die !

CHORUS OF "THE JOLLY BEGGARS."

A FIG for those by law protected !  
Liberty's a glorious feast !  
Courts for cowards were erected,  
Churches built to please the priest.

What is title? what is treasure?  
What is reputation's care?  
If we lead a life of pleasure,  
'Tis no matter how or where.

With the ready trick and fable,  
Round we wander all the day ;  
And at night, in barn or stable,  
Hug our doxies ~~in~~ the hay.

Does the train-attended carriage  
Through the country lighter rove ?  
Does the sober bed of marriage  
Witness brighter scenes of love ?

Life is all a variorum,  
We regard not how it goes ;  
Let them cant about decorum  
Who have characters to lose.

Here's to budgets, bags, and wallets !  
Here's to all the wandering train !  
Here's our ragged brats and calleets !  
One and all cry out—Amen !

*SONGS OF FREEDOM.*

A fig for those by law protected !  
Liberty's a glorious feast !  
Courts for cowards were erected,  
Churches built to please the priest.

*WILLIAM COWPER.*

1731—1800.

## FREEDOM.

WHOSE freedom is by sufferance, and at will  
Of a superior, he is never free.  
Who lives, and is not weary of a life  
Exposed to manacles, deserves them well.  
The state that strives for liberty, though foiled,  
And forced to abandon what she bravely sought,  
Deserves at least applause for her attempt,  
And pity for her loss. But that's a cause  
Not often unsuccessful ; power usurped  
Is weakness when opposed ; conscious of wrong,  
'Tis pusillanimous and prone to flight ;  
But slaves that once conceive the glowing thought  
Of freedom, in that hope itself possess  
All that the contest calls for ; spirit, strength,  
The scorn of danger, and united hearts ;  
The surest presage of the good they seek.

## THE MORNING DREAM.

'TWAS in the glad season of spring,  
Asleep at the dawn of the day,  
I dreamed what I cannot but sing,  
So pleasant it seemed as I lay.

I dreamed that, on ocean afloat,  
Far hence to the westward I sailed,  
While the billows high lifted the boat,  
And the fresh-blowing breeze never failed.

In the steerage a woman I saw ;  
Such at least was the form that she wore,  
Whose beauty impressed me with awe,  
Ne'er taught me by woman before.  
She sat, and a shield at her side  
Shed light, like a sun on the waves,  
And, smiling divinely, she cried—  
“ I go to make freemen of slaves.”

Then raising her voice to a strain  
The sweetest that ear ever heard,  
She sung of the slave's broken chain  
Wherever her glory appeared.  
Some clouds, which had over us hung,  
Fled, chased by her melody clear,  
And methought, while she liberty sung,  
'Twas liberty only to hear.

Thus swiftly dividing the flood,  
To a slave-cultured island we came,  
Where a demon, her enemy, stood—  
Oppression his terrible name.  
In his hand, as a sign of his sway,  
A scourge hung with lashes he bore,  
And stood looking out for his prey,  
From Africa's sorrowful shore.

But soon as approaching the land  
That goddess-like woman he viewed,  
The scourge he let fall from his hand,  
With blood of his subjects imbrued.  
I saw him both sicken and die,  
And the moment the monster expired,  
Heard shouts that ascended the sky,  
From thousands with rapture inspired.

Awaking, how could I but muse  
At what such a dream should betide ?  
But soon my ear caught the glad news,  
Which served my weak thought for a guide,  
That Britannia, renowned o'er the waves  
For the hatred she ever had shown  
To the black-sceptred rulers of slaves,  
Resolves to have none of her own.

*GEORGE CRABBE.*

1754—1832.

## A SCENE FROM “THE VILLAGE.”

BUT these are scenes where Nature's niggard hand  
Gave a spare portion to the famish'd land ;  
Hers is the fault, if here mankind complain  
Of fruitless toil and labour spent in vain ;  
But yet in other scenes more fair in view,  
When Plenty smiles—alas ! she smiles for few—  
And those who taste not, yet behold her store,  
Are as the slaves that dig the golden ore—  
The wealth around them makes them doubly poor.

Or will you deem them amply paid in health,  
Labour's fair child, that languishes with wealth ?  
Go then ! and see them rising with the sun,  
Through a long course of daily toil to run ;  
See them beneath the dog-star's raging heat,  
When the knees tremble and the temples beat ;  
Behold them, leaning on their scythes, look o'er  
The labour past, and toils to come explore ;  
See them alternate suns and showers engage,  
And hoard up aches and anguish for their age ;  
Through fens and marshy moors their steps pursue,  
Where their warm pores imbibe the evening dew ;  
Then own that labour may as fatal be  
To these thy slaves, as thine excess to thee.

*WILLIAM BLAKE.*

1759—1827.

LONDON.

I WANDER through each chartered street,  
Near where the chartered Thames does flow ;  
A mark in every face I meet,  
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In every cry of every man,  
In every infant's cry of fear,  
In every voice, in every ban,  
The mind-forged manacles I hear :

How the chimney-sweeper's cry  
Every blackening church appals,  
And the hapless soldier's sigh  
Runs in blood down palace-walls.

But most, through midnight streets I hear  
How the youthful harlot's curse  
Blasts the new-born infant's tear,  
And blights with plagues the marriage-hearse.

## HOLY THURSDAY.

Is this a holy thing to see  
In a rich and fruitful land,—  
Babes reduced to misery,  
Fed with cold and usurous hand?

Is that trembling cry a song?  
Can it be a song of joy?  
And so many children poor?  
It is a land of poverty!

And their sun does never shine,  
And their fields are black and bare,  
And their ways are filled with thorns:  
It is eternal winter there.

For where'er the sun does shine,  
And where'er the rain does fall,  
Babes should never hunger there,  
Nor poverty the mind appal.

---

## FROM "AUGURIES OF INNOCENCE."

NOUGHT can deform the human race  
Like to the armourer's iron brace;  
The soldier armed with sword and gun  
Palsied strikes the summer sun.

When gold and gems adorn the plough,  
To peaceful arts shall Envy bow.  
The beggar's rags fluttering in air  
Do to rags the heavens tear ;  
The prince's robes and beggar's rags  
Are toadstools on the miser's bags.  
One mite wrung from the labourer's hands  
Shall buy and sell the miser's lands,  
Or, if protected from on high,  
Shall that whole nation sell and buy ;  
The poor man's farthing is worth more  
Than all the gold on Afric's shore.  
The whore and gambler, by the state  
Licensed, build that nation's fate ;  
The harlot's cry from street to street  
Shall weave Old England's winding-sheet ;  
The winner's shout, the loser's curse,  
Shall dance before dead England's hearse.

*ROBERT SOUTHEY.*

1774—1843.

## SONG FROM "WAT TYLER."

"WHEN Adam delved and Eve span,  
Who was then the gentleman?"

Wretched is the infant's lot,  
Born within the straw-roof'd cot ;  
Be he generous, wise, or brave,  
He must only be a slave.

Long, long labour, little rest,  
Still to toil to be oppress'd ;  
Drain'd by taxes of his store,  
Punish'd next for being poor :  
This is the poor wretch's lot,  
Born within the straw-roof'd cot.

While the peasant works,—to sleep,  
What the peasant sows,—to reap,  
On the couch of ease to lie,  
Rioting in revelry ;  
Be he villain, be he fool,  
Still to hold despotic rule,  
Trampling on his slaves with scorn !  
This is to be nobly born.

" When Adam delved and Eve span,  
Who was then the gentleman ?"

## THE SLAVE TRADE.

HIGH in the air exposed the Slave is hung,  
To all the birds of heaven, their living food !  
He groans not, though awaked by that fierce sun  
New torturers live to drink their parent blood ;  
He groans not, though the gorging vulture tear  
The quivering fibre. Hither look, O ye  
Who tore this man from peace and liberty !  
Look hither, ye who weigh with politic care  
The gain against the guilt ! Beyond the grave  
There is another world ! . . . bear ye in mind,  
Ere your decree proclaims to all mankind  
The gain is worth the guilt, that there the Slave,  
Before the Eternal, "thunder-tongued shall plead  
Against the deep damnation of your deed."

*SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE.*

1772—1834.

## FRANCE : AN ODE.

ON THE FRENCH INVASION OF SWITZERLAND  
IN 1797.

YE Clouds ! that far above me float and pause,  
Whose pathless march no mortal may control !  
Ye Ocean-Waves ! that, wheresoe'er ye roll,  
Yield homage only to eternal laws !  
Ye Woods ! that listen to the night-birds singing,  
Midway the smooth and perilous slope reclined,  
Save when your own imperious branches swinging,  
Have made a solemn music of the wind !  
Where, like a man beloved of God,  
Through glooms, which never woodman trod,  
How oft, pursuing fancies holy,  
My moonlight way o'er flowering weeds I wound,  
Inspired, beyond the guess of folly,  
By each rude shape and wild unconquerable sound !  
O ye loud Waves ! and O ye Forests high !  
And O ye clouds that far above me soared !  
Thou rising Sun ! thou blue rejoicing Sky !  
Yea, every thing that is and will be free !  
Bear witness for me, wheresoe'er ye be,  
With what deep worship I have still adored  
The spirit of divinest Liberty.

When France in wrath her giant-limbs upreared,  
And with that oath, which smote air, earth and sea,  
Stamped her strong foot and said she would be free,  
Bear witness for me, how I hoped and feared !  
With what a joy my lofty gratulation  
Unawed I sang, amid a slavish band :  
And when towhelm the disenchanted nation,  
Like fiends embattled by a wizard's wand,  
The Monarchs marched in evil day,  
And Britain joined the dire array ;  
Though dear her shores and circling ocean,  
Though many friendships, many youthful loves  
Had swol'n the patriot emotion  
And flung a magic light o'er all her hills and groves ;  
Yet still my voice, unaltered, sang defeat  
To all that braved the tyrant-quelling lance,  
And shame too long delayed and vain retreat !  
For ne'er, O Liberty ! with partial aim  
I dimmed thy light or damped thy holy flame ;  
But blessed the pæans of delivered France,  
And hung my head and wept at Britain's name.

“ And what,” I said, “ though Blasphemy’s loud scream  
With that sweet music of deliverance strove !  
Though all the fierce and drunken passions wove  
A dance more wild than e’er was maniac’s dream !  
Ye storms, that round the dawning east assembled,  
The Sun was rising, though ye hid his light ! ”  
And when, to soothe my soul, that hoped and trembled,  
The dissonance ceased, and all seemed calm and bright ;  
When France her front deep-scarr’d and gory  
Concealed with clustering wreaths of glory ;  
When, insupportably advancing,

Her arm made mockery of the warrior's tramp ;  
While timid looks of fury glancing,  
Domestic treason, crushed beneath her fatal stamp,  
Writhed like a wounded dragon in his gore ;  
Then I reproached my fears that would not flee ;  
“ And soon,” I said, “ shall Wisdom teach her lore  
In the low huts of them that toil and groan !  
And, conquering by her happiness alone,  
Shall France compel the nations to be free,  
Till Love and Joy look round, and call the Earth their  
own.”

Forgive me, Freedom ! O forgive those dreams !  
I hear thy voice, I hear thy loud lament,  
From bleak Helvetia's icy cavern sent—  
I hear thy groans upon her blood-stained streams !  
Heroes, that for your peaceful country perished,  
And ye that, fleeing, spot your mountain-snows  
With bleeding wounds ; forgive me, that I cherished  
One thought that ever blessed your cruel foes !  
To scatter rage, and traitorous guilt,  
Where Peace her jealous home had built ;  
A patriot-race to disinherit  
Of all that made their stormy wilds so dear ;  
And with inexpiable spirit  
To taint the bloodless freedom of the mountaineer—  
O France, that mockest Heaven, adulterous, blind,  
And patriot only in pernicious toils,  
Are these thy boasts, Champion of human kind ?  
To mix with Kings in the low lust of sway,  
Yell in the hunt, and share the murderous prey ;  
To insult the shrine of Liberty with spoils  
From freemen torn ; to tempt and to betray ?

The Sensual and the Dark rebel in vain,  
Slaves by their own compulsion ! In mad game  
They burst their manacles and wear the name  
    Of Freedom, graven on a heavier chain !  
O Liberty ! with profitless endeavour  
Have I pursued thee, many a weary hour ;  
    But thou nor swell'st the victor's strain, nor ever  
Didst breathe thy soul in forms of human power.  
Alike from all, howe'er they praise thee,  
(Nor prayer, nor boastful name delays thee)  
    Alike from Priestcraft's harpy minions,  
And factious Blasphemy's obscurer slaves,  
    Thou speedest on thy subtle pinions,  
The guide of homeless winds, and playmate of the waves !  
And there I felt thee !—on that sea-cliff's verge,  
    Whose pines, scarce travelled by the breeze above,  
Had made one murmur with the distant surge !  
Yes, while I stood and gazed, my temples bare,  
And shot my being through earth, sea, and air,  
    Possessing all things with intensest love,  
O Liberty ! my spirit felt thee there.

*WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.*

1770—1850.

THOUGHT OF A BRITON ON THE SUB-  
JUGATION OF SWITZERLAND.

TWO Voices are there ; one is of the sea,  
One of the mountains; each a mighty Voice :  
In both from age to age thou didst rejoice,  
They were thy chosen music, Liberty !  
There came a Tyrant, and with holy glee  
Thou fought'st against him ; but hast vainly striven :  
Thou from thy Alpine holds at length art driven,  
Where not a torrent murmurs heard by thee.  
Of one deep bliss thine ear hath been bereft :  
Then cleave, O cleave to that which still is left ;  
For, high-souled Maid, what sorrow would it be  
That Mountain-floods should thunder as before,  
And Ocean bellow from his rocky shore,  
And neither awful Voice be heard by thee !

---

## TO TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE.

[Toussaint L'Ouverture was a negro who became governor of St. Domingo under the French Republic. For resisting Napoleon's re-establishment of slavery in St. Domingo, he was arrested and sent to Paris, where he died in prison in 1803.]

TOUSSAINT, the most unhappy man of men !  
 Whether the whistling Rustic tend his plough  
 Within thy hearing, or thy head be now  
 Pillowed in some deep dungeon's earless den ;—  
 O miserable Chieftain ! where and when  
 Wilt thou find patience ? Yet die not ; do thou  
 Wear rather in thy bonds a cheerful brow :  
 Though fallen thyself, never to rise again,  
 Live and take comfort. Thou hast left behind  
 Powers that will work for thee ; air, earth, and skies ;  
 There's not a breathing of the common wind  
 That will forget thee ; thou hast great allies ;  
 Thy friends are exultations, agonies,  
 And love, and man's unconquerable mind.

---

## HOFER.

[Andreas Hofer was the leader of the Tyrolese peasantry in their resistance to Napoleon. He was betrayed and put to death in 1810.]

OF mortal parents is the Hero born  
 By whom the dauntless Tyrolese are led ?  
 Or is it Tell's great Spirit, from the dead  
 Returned to animate an age forlorn ?  
 He comes like Phœbus through the gates of morn  
 When dreary darkness is discomfited ;

Yet mark his modest state ! upon his head,  
That simple crest, a heron's plume, is worn.  
O Liberty, they stagger at the shock  
From van to rear—and with one mind would flee,  
But half their host is buried :—rock on rock  
Descends :—beneath this godlike Warrior, see !  
Hills, torrents, woods, embodied to hemock  
The Tyrant, and confound his cruelty.

---

TO THOMAS CLARKSON,

ON THE FINAL PASSING OF THE BILL FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE, MARCH 1807.

CLARKSON ! it was an obstinate hill to climb :  
How toilsome—nay, how dire—it was, by thee  
Is known ; by none, perhaps, so feelingly :  
But thou, who, starting in thy fervent prime,  
Didst first lead forth that enterprise sublime,  
Hast heard the constant Voice its charge repeat,  
Which, out of thy young heart's oracular seat,  
First roused thee. O true yoke-fellow of Time,  
Duty's intrepid liegeman, see, the palm  
Is won, and by all Nations shall be worn !  
The blood-stained Writing is for ever torn ;  
And thou henceforth wilt have a good man's calm,  
A great man's happiness ; thy zeal shall find  
Repose at length, firm friend of human kind !

*THOMAS CAMPBELL.*

1777—1844.

SONG.

“MEN OF ENGLAND.”

MEN of England ! who inherit  
Rights that cost your sires their blood !  
Men whose undegenerate spirit  
Has been proved on field and flood :—

By the foes you've fought uncounted,  
By the glorious deeds ye've done,  
Trophies captured—breaches mounted,  
Navies conquer'd—kingdoms won !

Yet, remember, England gathers  
Hence but fruitless wreaths of fame,  
If the freedom of your fathers  
Glow not in your hearts the same.

What are monuments of bravery,  
Where no public virtues bloom ?  
What avail in lands of slavery,  
Trophied temples, arch, and tomb ?

*SONGS OF FREEDOM.*

Pageants!—Let the world revere us  
 For our people's rights and laws,  
 And the breasts of civic heroes  
 Bared in Freedom's holy cause.

Yours are Hampden's, Russell's glory,  
 Sidney's matchless shade is yours,—  
 Martyrs in heroic story,  
 Worth a hundred Agincourts!

We're the sons of sires that baffled  
 Crown'd and mitred tyranny;—  
 They defied the field and scaffold  
 For their birthrights—so will we!

*ODE TO THE GERMANS.*

THE spirit of Britannia  
 Invokes, across the main,  
 Her sister Allemannia  
 To burst the Tyrant's chain:  
 By our kindred blood, she cries,  
 Rise, Allemannians, rise,  
 And hallow'd thrice the band  
 Of our kindred hearts shall be,  
 When your land shall be the land  
 Of the free—of the free!

With Freedom's lion-banner  
 Britannia rules the waves ;  
 Whilst your BROAD STONE OF HONOUR \*  
 Is still the camp of slaves.  
 For shame, for glory's sake,  
 Wake, Allemannians, wake,  
 And thy tyrants now that whelm  
 Half the world shall quail and flee,  
 When your realm shall be the realm  
 Of the free—of the free !

MARS owes to you his thunder †  
 That shakes the battle-field,  
 Yet to break your bonds asunder  
 No martial bolt has peal'd.  
 Shall the laurel'd land of art  
 Wear shackles on her heart ?  
 No ! the clock ye framed to tell  
 By its sound, the march of time ;  
 Let it clang oppression's knell  
 O'er your clime—o'er your clime !

The press's magic letters,  
 That blessing ye brought forth,—  
 Behold ! it lies in fetters  
 On the soil that gave it birth :  
 But the trumpet must be heard,  
 And the charger must be spurr'd ;  
 For your father Armin's Sprite  
 Calls down from heaven, that ye  
 Shall gird you for the fight,  
 And be free !—and be free !

\* Ehrenbreitstein.

† Germany invented gunpowder, clock-making, and printing.

## THE POWER OF RUSSIA.

So all this gallant blood has gush'd in vain ;  
 And Poland, by the Northern Condor's beak  
 And talons torn, lies prostrated again !  
 O British patriots, that were wont to speak  
 Once loudly on this theme, now hush'd or meek !  
 O heartless men of Europe—Goth and Gaul,  
 Cold, adder-deaf to Poland's dying shriek ;—  
 That saw the world's last land of heroes fall—  
 The brand of burning shame is on you all—all—all !

But this is not the drama's closing act !  
 Its tragic curtain must arise anew.  
 Nations, mute accessories to the fact !  
 That Upas-tree of power, whose fostering dew  
 Was Polish blood, has yet to cast o'er you  
 The lengthening shadow of its head elate—  
 A deadly shadow, darkening Nature's hue.  
 To all that's hallow'd, righteous, pure and great,  
 Woe ! woe ! when they are reach'd by Russia's withering  
 hate.

Russia, that on his throne of adamant,  
 Consults what nation's breast shall next be gored :  
 He on Polonia's Golgotha will plant  
 His standard fresh ; and horde succeeding horde,  
 On patriot tombstones he will whet the sword,  
 For more stupendous slaughters of the free.  
 Then Europe's realms, when their best blood is pour'd,  
 Shall miss thee, Poland ! as they bend the knee,  
 All—all in grief, but none in glory, likening thee.

Why smote ye not the Giant whilst he reel'd ?  
O fair occasion, gone for ever by !  
To have lock'd his lances in their northern field,  
Innocuous as the phantom chivalry  
That flames and hurtles from yon boreal sky !  
Now wave thy pennon, Russia, o'er the land  
Once Poland ; build thy bristling castles high ;  
Dig dungeons deep ; for Poland's wretched brand  
Is now a weapon new to widen thy command.

• • • • •

Proud bird of old ! Mohammed's moon recoil'd  
Before thy swoop : had we been timely bold,  
That swoop, still free, had stunn'd the Russ, and foil'd  
Earth's new oppressors, as it foil'd her old.  
Now thy majestic eyes are shut and cold :  
And colder still Polonia's children find  
The sympathetic hands, that we outhold.  
But, Poles, when we are gone, the world will mind  
Ye bore the brunt of fate, and bled for humankind.

So hallow'dly have ye fulfill'd your part,  
My pride repudiates ev'n the sigh that blends  
With Poland's name—name written on my heart.  
My heroes, my grief-consecrated friends !  
Your sorrow, in nobility, transcends  
Your conqueror's joy : his cheek may blush ; but shame  
Can tinge not yours, though exile's tear descends ;  
Nor would ye change your conscience, cause, and name,  
For his, with all his wealth, and all his felon fame.

Thee, Niemciewitz, whose song of stirring power  
The Czar forbids to sound in Polish lands ;  
Thee, Czartoryski, in thy banish'd bower,  
The patricide, who in thy palace stands,

May envy; proudly may Polonia's bands  
Throw down their swords at Europe's feet in scorn,  
Saying—"Russia from the metal of these brands  
Shall forge the fetters of your sons unborn;  
Our setting star is your misfortunes' rising morn."

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## STANZAS

## ON THE BATTLE OF NAVARINO, 1827.

HEARTS of oak that have bravely deliver'd the brave,  
And uplifted old Greece from the brink of the grave,  
'Twas the helpless to help, and the hopeless to save,  
That your thunderbolts swept o'er the brine :  
And as long as yon sun shall look down on the wave,  
The light of your glory shall shine.

For the guerdon ye sought with your bloodshed and toil,  
Was it slaves, or dominion, or rapine, or spoil ?  
No ! your lofty emprise was to fetter and foil  
The uprooter of Greece's domain !  
When he tore the last remnant of food from her soil  
Till her famish'd sank pale as the slain !

Yet, Navarin's heroes ! does Christendom breed  
The base hearts that will question the fame of your deed !  
Are they men ?—let ineffable scorn be their meed,  
And oblivion shadow their graves !—  
Are they women ?—to Turkish serails let them speed ;  
And be mothers of Mussulman slaves.

Abettors of massacre ! dare ye deplore  
That the death-shriek is silenced on Hellas's shore ?  
That the mother aghast sees her offspring no more  
By the hand of Infanticide grasp'd ?  
And that stretch'd on yon billows distain'd by their gore  
Missolonghi's assassins have gasp'd ?

Prouder scene never hallow'd war's pomp to the mind,  
Than when Christendom's pennons woo'd social the wind,  
And the flower of her brave for the combat combined,  
Their watchword, humanity's vow ;  
Not a sea-boy that fought in that cause, but mankind  
Owes a garland to honour his brow !

*JAMES HOGG, The Ettrick Shepherd.*

1772—1835.

### THE HARP OF OSSIAN.

OLD harp of the Highlands, how long hast thou slumber'd  
 In cave of the correi, ungarnish'd, unstrung !  
 Thy minstrels no more with thy heroes are number'd,  
 Or deeds of thy heroes no more dare be sung.  
 A sœr late heard, from thy cavern ascending,  
 A low-sounding chime, as of sorrow and dole ;  
 Some spirit unseen on the relic attending  
 Thus sung the last strain of the warrior's soul :

“ My country, farewell ! for the days are expired  
 On which I could hallow the deeds of the free ;  
 Thy heroes have all to new honours aspired,  
 They fight, but they fight not for Scotia nor me.  
 All lost is our sway, and the name of our nation  
 Is sunk in the name of our old mortal foe ;  
 Then why should the lay of our last degradation  
 Be forced from the harp of old Ossian to flow ?

“ My country, farewell ! for the murmurs of sorrow  
 Alone the dark mountains of Scotia become ;  
 Her sons condescend from new models to borrow,  
 And voices of strangers prevail in the hum.  
 Before the smooth face of our Saxon invaders  
 Is quench'd the last ray in the eyes of the free ;  
 Then, oh ! let me rest in the caves of my fathers,  
 Forgetful of them as forgetful of thee ! ”

*THOMAS MOORE.*

1779—1852.

## WHERE IS THE SLAVE?

WHERE is the slave, so lowly,  
Condemn'd to chains unholy,  
Who, could he burst  
His bonds at first,  
Would pine beneath them slowly?  
What soul, whose wrongs degrade it,  
Would wait till time decay'd it,  
When thus its wing  
At once may spring  
To the throne of Him who made it?  
Farewell, Erin!—farewell, all  
Who live to weep our fall!

Less dear the laurel growing  
Alive, untouch'd, and blowing,  
Than that whose braid  
Is pluck'd to shade  
The brows with victory glowing!  
We tread the land that bore us,  
Her green flag glitters o'er us,

The friends we've tried  
Are by our side,  
And the foe we hate before us !  
Farewell, Erin !—farewell, all  
Who live to weep our fall !

---

### OII, THE SIGHT ENTRANCING.

OH, the sight entrancing,  
When morning's beam is glancing  
O'er files array'd  
With helm and blade,  
And plumes, in the gay wind dancing !  
When hearts are all high beating,  
And the trumpet's voice repeating  
That song, whose breath  
May lead to death,  
But never to retreating.

Yet, 'tis not helm or feather—  
For ask yon despot, whether  
His plumèd bands  
Could bring such hands  
And hearts as ours together.  
Leave pomps to those who need 'em—  
Give man but heart and freedom,  
And proud he braves  
The gaudiest slaves  
That crawl where monarchs lead 'em.

The sword may pierce the beaver,  
Stone walls in time may sever,  
    'Tis mind alone,  
        Worth steel and stone,  
That keeps man free for ever.  
Oh, that sight entrancing,  
When the morning's beam is glancing  
    O'er files array'd  
        With helm and blade,  
And in Freedom's cause advancing.

---

### FORGET NOT THE FIELD.

FORGET not the field where they perish'd,  
    The truest, the last of the brave,  
All gone—and the bright hope we cherish'd  
    Gone with them, and quench'd in their grave !

Oh, could we from death but recover  
    Those hearts as they bounded before,  
In the face of high heav'n to fight over  
    That combat for freedom once more ;—

Could the chain for an instant be riven  
    Which Tyranny flung round us then,  
No, 'tis not in Man, nor in Heaven,  
    To let Tyranny bind it again !

But 'tis past—and, though blazon'd in story  
The name of our Victor may be,  
Accurst is the march of that glory  
Which treads o'er the hearts of the free.

Far dearer the grave or the prison,  
Illumed by one patriot name,  
Than the trophies of all who have risen  
On Liberty's ruins to fame.

*EDWARD LYSAGHT.*

1763—1810.

[An Irish barrister and song-writer. His poems were collected and published in 1811, after his death.]

IN PRAISE OF GRATTAN.

THE generous sons of Erin, in manly virtue bold,  
With hearts and hands preparing our country to uphold ;  
Tho' cruel knaves and bigot slaves disturbed our isle  
some years,  
Now hail the man who led the van of Irish Volunteers.

Just thirty years are ending since first his glorious aid,  
Our sacred rights defending, struck shackles from our  
trade ;  
To serve us still, with might and skill, the vet'ran now  
appears,  
That gallant man who led the van of Irish Volunteers.

He sows no vile dissensions ; good-will to all he bears ;  
He knows no vain pretensions, no paltry fears or cares ;  
To Erin's and to Britain's sons his worth his name  
endears ;  
They love the man who led the van of Irish Volunteers.

Oppos'd by hirelings sordid, he broke oppression's chain ;  
On statute-books recorded his patriot acts remain ;  
The equipoise his mind employs of Commons, King, and  
Peers,  
The upright man who led the van of Irish Volunteers.

A British constitution (to Erin ever true),  
In spite of state pollution, he gained in 'Eighty-two ;  
He watched it in its cradle, and bedew'd its hearse with  
tears,  
This gallant man who led the van of Irish Volunteers.

While other nations tremble, by proud oppressors gall'd,  
On hustings we'll assemble, by Erin's welfare called ;  
Our Grattan, there we'll meet him, and greet him with  
three cheers,  
The gallant man who led the van of Irish Volunteers.

*LORD BYRON.*

1788—1824.

## SONNET ON CHILLON.

ETERNAL Spirit of the chainless Mind !  
    Brightest in dungeons, Liberty, thou art !  
For there thy habitation is the heart—  
The heart which love of thee alone can bind;  
And when thy sons to fetters are consign'd—  
    To fetters, and the damp vault's dayless gloom—  
Their country conquers with their martyrdom,  
And Freedom's fame finds wings on every wind.  
Chillon ! thy prison is a holy place,  
    And thy sad floor an altar ; for 'twas trod,  
Until his very steps have left a trace  
    Worn, as if thy cold pavement were a sod,  
By Bonnivard ! May none those marks efface !  
    For they appeal from tyranny to God.

---

## “CLIME OF THE UNFORGOTTEN BRAVE !”

CLIME of the unforgotten brave !  
Whose land from plain to mountain-cave  
Was Freedom's home or Glory's grave--

Shrine of the mighty ! can it be  
That this is all remains of thee ?  
Approach, thou craven crouching slave—  
    Say, is not this Thermopylæ ?  
These waters blue that round you lave,  
    O servile offspring of the free—  
Pronounce what sea, what shore is this ?  
The gulf, the rock of Salamis !  
These scenes, their story not unknown,  
Arise, and make again your own ;  
Snatch from the ashes of your sires  
The embers of their former fires ;  
And he who in the strife expires  
Will add to theirs a name of fear,  
That Tyranny shall quake to hear,  
And leave his sons a hope, a fame.  
They too will rather die than shame :  
For Freedom's battle once begun,  
Bequeathed by bleeding Sire to Son,  
Though baffled oft, is ever won.  
Bear witness, Greece, thy living page !  
Attest it many a deathless age !  
While kings, in dusty darkness hid,  
Have left a nameless pyramid,  
Thy heroes—though the general doom  
Hath swept the column from their tomb,  
A mightier monument command,  
The mountains of their native land !  
There points thy Muse to stranger's eye  
The graves of those that cannot die !

---

## THE ISLES OF GREECE.

THE isles of Greece ! the isles of Greece !

Where burning Sappho loved and sung,  
Where grew the arts of war and peace,

Where Delos rose and Phœbus sprung !  
Eternal summer gilds them yet,  
But all, except their sun, is set.

The Scian and the Teian muse,

The hero's harp, the lover's lute,  
Have found the fame your shores refuse ;

Their place of birth alone is mute  
To sounds which echo further west  
Than your sires' " Islands of the Blest."

The mountains look on Marathon,

And Marathon looks on the sea :  
And musing there an hour alone,

I dream'd that Greece might still be free ;  
For, standing on the Persian's grave,  
I could not deem myself a slave.

A king sat on the rocky brow

Which looks o'er sea-born Salamis ;  
And ships, by thousands, lay below,  
And men in nations ;—all were his !  
He counted them at break of day,  
And when the sun set where were they ?

And where are they? and where art thou,  
 My country? On thy voiceless shore  
 The heroic lay is tuneless now—  
 The heroic bosom beats no more !  
 And must thy lyre, so long divine,  
 Degenerate into hands like mine ?

'Tis something, in the dearth of fame,  
 Though link'd among a fetter'd race,  
 To feel at least a patriot's shame,  
 Even as I sing, suffuse my face ;  
 For what is left the poet here ?  
 For Greeks a blush—for Greece a tear.

. . . . .  
 Fill high the bowl with Samian wine !  
 Our virgins dance beneath the shade—  
 I see their glorious black eyes shine ;  
 But, gazing on each glowing maid,  
 My own the burning tear-drop laves,  
 To think such breasts must suckle slaves.

Place me on Sunium's marbled steep,  
 Where nothing, save the waves and I,  
 May hear our mutual murmurs sweep:  
 There, swan-like, let me sing and die !  
 A land of slaves shall ne'er be mine—  
 Dash down yon cup of Samian wine !

---

## STANZAS.

CAN tyrants but by tyrants conquer'd be,  
And Freedom find no champion and no child  
Such as Columbia saw arise when she  
Sprung forth a Pallas, arm'd and undefiled ?  
Or must such minds be nourish'd in the wild,  
Deep in the unpruned forest, 'midst the roar  
Of cataracts, where nursing nature smiled  
On infant Washington ? Has Earth no more  
Such seeds within her breast, or Europe no such shore ?

But France got drunk with blood to vomit crime,  
And fatal have her Saturnalia been  
To Freedom's cause, in every age and clime ;  
Because the deadly days which we have seen,  
And vile Ambition, that built up between  
Man and his hopes an adamantine wall,  
And the base pageant last upon the scene,  
Are grown the pretext for the eternal thrall  
Which nips Life's tree, and dooms man's worst—his  
second fall.

Yet, Freedom ! yet thy banner, torn, but flying,  
Streams like the thunderstorm *against* the wind ;  
Thy trumpet-voice, though broken now and dying,  
The loudest still the tempest leaves behind ;  
Thy tree hath lost its blossoms, and the rind,  
Chopp'd by the axe, looks rough and little worth,  
But the sap lasts,—and still the seed we find  
Sown deep, even in the bosom of the North ;  
So shall a better spring less bitter fruit bring forth.

*JOHN KEATS.*

1791—1821.

WRITTEN IN DISGUST OF VULGAR  
SUPERSTITION.

THE church-bells toll a melancholy round,  
Calling the people to some other prayers,  
Some other gloominess, more dreadful cares,  
More hearkening to the sermon's horrid sound.  
Surely the mind of man is closely bound  
In some black spell ; seeing that each one tears  
Himself from fireside joys, and Lydian airs,  
And converse high of those with glory crown'd.  
Still, still they toll, and I should feel a damp,—  
A chill as from a tomb, did I not know  
That they are dying like an outburnt lamp ;  
That 'tis their sighing, wailing ere they go  
Into oblivion ;—that fresh flowers will grow,  
And many glories of immortal stamp.

---

WRITTEN ON THE DAY THAT MR. LEIGH  
HUNT LEFT PRISON.

WHAT though, for showing truth to flatter'd state,  
Kind Hunt was shut in prison, yet has he,  
In his immortal spirit, been as free  
As the sky-searching lark, and as elate.  
Minion of grandeur ! think you he did wait ?  
Think you he nought but prison walls did see,  
Till, so unwilling, thou unturn'dst the key?  
Ah, no ! far happier, nobler was his fate !  
In Spenser's halls he stray'd, and bowers fair,  
Culling enchanted flowers ; and he flew  
With daring Milton through the fields of air :  
To regions of his own his genius true  
Took happy flights. Who shall his fame impair  
When thou art dead, and all thy wretched crew ?

*JAMES HENRY LEIGH HUNT.*

1784—1859.

POWER AND GENTLENESS.

I'VE thought at gentle and ungentle hour,  
Of many an act and giant shape of power;  
Of the old kings with high exacting looks,  
Sceptred and globed; of eagles on their rocks,  
With straining feet, and that fierce mouth and drear,  
Answering the strain with downward drag austere;  
Of the rich-headed lion, whose huge frown  
All his great nature, gathering, seems to crown;  
Of towers on hills, with foreheads out of sight  
In clouds, or shown us by the thunder's light,  
Or ghastly prison, that eternally  
Holds its blind visage out to the lone sea;  
And of all sunless, subterranean deeps  
The creature makes, who listens while he sleeps,  
Avarice; and then of those old earthly cones,  
That stride, they say, over heroic bones;  
And those stone heaps Egyptian, whose small doors  
Look like low dens under precipitous shores;  
And him, great Memnon, that long sitting by  
In seeming idleness, with stony eye,  
Sang at the morning's touch, like poetry;

And then, of all the fierce and bitter fruit  
Of the proud planting of a tyrannous foot,—  
Of bruised rights, and flourishing bad men,  
And virtue wasting heavenwards from a den ;  
Brute force and fury ; and the devilish drouth  
Of the fool cannon's ever-gaping mouth ;  
And the bride-widowing sword ; and the harsh bray  
The sneering trumpet sends across the fray ;  
And all which lights the people-thinning star,  
That selfishness invokes,—the horsed war,  
Panting along with many a bloody mane.

I've thought of all this pride, and all this pain,  
And all the insolent plenitudes of power,  
And I declare, by this most quiet hour,  
Which holds in different tasks by the firelight  
Me and my friends here, this delightful night,  
That Power itself has not one-half the might  
Of Gentleness. 'Tis want to all true wealth ;  
The uneasy madman's force, to the wise health ;  
Blind downward beating, to the eyes that see ;  
Noise to persuasion, doubt to certainty ;  
The consciousness of strength in enemies,  
Who must be strain'd upon, or else they rise ;  
The battle to the moon, who all the while,  
High out of hearing, passes with her smile ;  
The tempest, trampling in his scanty run,  
To the whole globe, that basks about the sun ;  
Or as all shrieks and clangs, with which a sphere,  
Undone and fired, could rake the midnight ear,  
Compared with that vast dumbness nature keeps  
Throughout her starry deeps,  
Most old, and mild, and awful, and unbroken,  
Which tells a tale of peace beyond whate'er was spoken.

## TO PERCY SHELLEY,

## ON THE DEGRADING NOTIONS OF DEITY.

WHAT wonder, Percy, that with jealous rage  
Men should defame the kindly and the wise,  
When in the midst of the all-beauteous skies,  
And all this lovely world that should engage  
Their mutual search for the old golden age,  
They seat a Phantom, swelled into grim size  
Out of their own passions and bigotries,  
And then, for fear, proclaim it meek and sage !  
And this they call a light and a revealing !  
Wise as the clown, who plodding home at night  
In autumn, turns at call of fancied elf,  
And sees upon the fog, with ghastly feeling,  
A giant shadow in its imminent might,  
Which his own lanthorn throws up from himself.

*PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.*

1792—1822.

## THE HYMN OF THE LIBERATED NATIONS.

ELDEST of things, divine Equality !  
Wisdom and Love are but the slaves of thee,  
The Angels of thy sway, who pour around thee  
Treasures from all the cells of human thought,  
And from the Stars, and from the Ocean brought,  
And the last living heart whose beatings bound thee.

The powerful and the wise had sought  
Thy coming; thou in light descending  
O'er the wide land which is thine own,  
Like the spring whose breath is blending  
All blasts of fragrance into one,  
Comest upon the paths of men !  
Earth bares her general bosom to thy ken,  
And all her children here in glory meet  
To feed upon thy smiles, and clasp thy sacred feet.

My brethren, we are free ! the plains and mountains,  
The grey sea-shore, the forests, and the fountains,  
Are haunts of happiest dwellers; man and woman,  
Their common bondage burst, may freely borrow  
From lawless love a solace for their sorrow !  
For oft we still must weep, since we are human.

A stormy night's serenest morrow,  
Whose showers are pity's gentle tears,  
Whose clouds are smiles of those that die  
Like infants, without hopes or fears,  
And whose beams are joys that lie  
In blended hearts, now holds dominion ;  
The dawn of mind, which, upwards on a pinion  
Borne, swift as sun-rise, far illumines space,  
And clasps this barren world in its own bright  
embrace !

My brethren, we are free ! the fruits are glowing  
Beneath the stars, and the night-winds are flowing  
O'er the ripe corn, the birds and beasts are dreaming—  
Never again may blood of bird or beast  
Stain with its venomous stream a human feast,  
To the pure skies in accusation steaming ;  
Avenging poisons shall have ceased  
To feed disease and fear and madness,  
The dwellers of the earth and air  
Shall throng around our steps in gladness,  
Seeking their food or refuge there.  
Our toil from thought all glorious forms shall cull,  
To make this earth, our home, more beautiful,  
And Science, and her sister Poesy,  
Shall clothe in light the fields and cities of the free !

Victory, Victory to the prostrate nations !  
Bear witness, Night, and ye mute Constellations  
Who gaze on us from your crystalline cars !  
Thoughts have gone forth whose powers can sleep  
no more !  
Victory ! Victory ! Earth's remotest shore,

Regions which groan beneath the Antarctic stars,  
The green lands cradled in the roar  
    Of western waves, and wildernesses  
Peopled and vast, which skirt the oceans  
Where morning dyes her golden tresses,  
Shall soon partake our high emotions :  
Kings shall turn pale ! Almighty Fear,  
The Fiend-God, when our charmed name he hear,  
Shall fade like shadow from his thousand fanes,  
While Truth with Joy enthroned o'er his lost empire  
    reigns !

---

### THE TRUE FREEDOM.

(FROM "THE MASQUE OF ANARCHY.")

MEN of England, Heirs of Glory,  
Heroes of unwritten story,  
Nurslings of one mighty mother,  
Hopes of her, and one another !

Rise, like lions after slumber,  
In unvanquishable number,  
Shake your chains to earth like dew,  
Which in sleep had fall'n on you.  
Ye are many, they are few.

What is Freedom ? Ye can tell  
That which Slavery is too well,  
For its very name has grown  
To an echo of your own.

'Tis to work, and have such pay  
As just keeps life from day to day  
In your limbs as in a cell  
For the tyrants' use to dwell :

So that ye for them are made,  
Loom, and plough, and sword, and spade;  
With or without your own will, bent  
To their defence and nourishment.

'Tis to see your children weak  
With their mothers pine and peak,  
When the winter winds are bleak :—  
They are dying whilst I speak.

'Tis to hunger for such diet,  
As the rich man in his riot  
Casts to the fat dogs that lie  
Surfeiting beneath his eye.

'Tis to let the Ghost of Gold  
Take from Toil a thousand-fold  
More than e'er his substance could  
In the tyrannies of old.

This is Slavery—savage men,  
Or wild beasts within a den,  
Would endure not as ye do :  
But such ills they never knew.

What art thou, Freedom? Oh! could slaves  
Answer from their living graves  
This demand, tyrants would flee  
Like a dream's dim imagery.

Thou art not, as impostors say,  
A shadow soon to pass away,  
A superstition, and a name  
Echoing from the cave of Fame.

For the labourer thou art bread  
And a comely table spread,  
From his daily labour come,  
In a neat and happy home.

Thou art clothes, and fire, and food  
For the trampled multitude:  
No—in countries that are free  
Such starvation cannot be,  
As in England now we see.

---

### SONG.

#### TO THE MEN OF ENGLAND,

MEN of England, wherefore plough  
For the lords who lay ye low?  
Wherefore weave with toil and care,  
The rich robes your tyrants wear?

Wherfore feed, and clothe, and save,  
From the cradle to the grave,  
Those ungrateful drones who would  
Drain your sweat—nay, drink your blood !

Wherfore, Bees of England, forge  
Many a weapon, chain, and scourge,  
That these stingless drones may spoil  
The forced produce of your toil ?

Have ye leisure, comfort, calm,  
Shelter, food, love's gentle balm ?  
Or what is it ye buy so dear  
With your pain and with your fear ?

The seed ye sow, another reaps ;  
The wealth ye find, another keeps ;  
The robes ye weave, another wears ;  
The arms ye forge, another bears.

Sow seed,—but let no tyrant reap ;  
Find wealth,—let no impostor heap ;  
Weave robes,—let not the idle wear ;  
Forge arms,—in your defence to bear.

Shrink to your cellars, holes, and cells ;  
In halls ye deck, another dwells.  
Why shake the chains ye wrought ? Ye see  
The steel ye tempered glance on ye.

With plough and spade, and hoe and loom,  
Trace your grave, and build your tomb,  
And weave your winding-sheet, till fair  
England be your sepulchre.

---

## ENGLAND IN 1819.

An old, mad, blind, despised, and dying king,—  
Princes, the dregs of their dull race, who flow  
Through public scorn—mud from a muddy spring,—  
Rulers, who neither see, nor feel, nor know,  
But leech-like to their fainting country cling,  
Till they drop, blind in blood, without a blow,—  
A people starved and stabbed in the untilled field,—  
An army, which liberticide and prey  
Makes as a two-edged sword to all who wield,  
Golden and sanguine laws which tempt and slay,—  
Religion Christless, Godless—a book sealed;  
A Senate—Time's worst statute unrepealed,—  
Are graves, from which a glorious Phantom may  
Burst, to illumine our tempestuous day.

---

## THE ROYAL MASQUE.

(FROM "CHARLES THE FIRST.")

Ay, there they are—  
Nobles, and sons of nobles, patentees,  
Monopolists, and stewards of this poor farm,  
On whose lean sheep sit the prophetic crows.

Here is the pomp that strips the houseless orphan,  
 Here is the pride that breaks the desolate heart.  
 These are the lilies glorious as Solomon,  
 Who toil not, neither do they spin,—unless  
 It be the webs they catch poor rogues withal.  
 Here is the surfeit which to them who earn  
 The niggard wages of the earth, scarce leaves  
 The tithe that will support them till they crawl  
 Back to its cold hard bosom. Here is health  
 Followed by grim disease, glory by shame,  
 Waste by lank famine, wealth by squalid want,  
 And England's sin by England's punishment.  
 And, as the effect pursues the cause foregone,  
 Lo, giving substance to my words, behold  
 At once the sign and the thing signified—  
 A troop of cripples, beggars, and lean outcasts,  
 Horsed upon stumbling shapes, carted with dung,  
 Dragged for a day from cellars and low cabins  
 And rotten hiding-holes, to point the moral  
 Of this presentment, and bring up the rear  
 Of painted pomp with misery !

---

### CHORUS IN “HELLAS.”

IN the great morning of the world,  
 The spirit of God with might unfurled  
 The flag of Freedom over Chaos,  
 And all its banded anarchs fled,  
 Like vultures frightened from Imaus,  
 Before an earthquake's tread.—  
 So from Time's tempestuous dawn  
 Freedom's splendour burst and shone :—  
 Thermopylæ and Marathon

Caught, like mountains beacon-lighted,  
The springing Fire.—The winged glory  
On Philippi half-alighted,  
Like an eagle on a promontory.  
Its unwearied wings could fan  
The quenchless ashes of Milan.  
From age to age, from man to man  
It lived ; and lit from land to land  
Florence, Albion, Switzerland.  
Then night fell ; and, as from night,  
Re-assuming fiery flight,  
From the West swift Freedom came,  
Against the course of heaven and doom,  
A second sun arrayed in flame,  
To burn, to kindle, to illume.  
From far Atlantis its young beams  
Chased the shadows and the dreams.  
France, with all her sanguine steams,  
Hid, but quenched it not ; again  
Through clouds its shafts of glory rain  
From utmost Germany to Spain.  
As an eagle fed with morning  
Scorns the embattled tempest's warning,  
When she seeks her aerie hanging  
In the mountain-cedar's hair,  
And her brood expect the clangling  
Of her wings through the wild air,  
Sick with famine ;—Freedom, so  
To what of Greece remaineth now  
Returns ; her hoary ruins glow  
Like orient mountains lost in day ;  
Beneath the safety of her wings  
Her renovated nurslings play,  
And in the naked lightnings  
Of truth they purge their dazzled eyes.

Let Freedom leave, where'er she flies,  
A Desert, or a Paradise;  
Let the beautiful and the brave  
Share her glory, or a grave.

---

### POLITICAL GREATNESS.

NOR happiness, nor majesty, nor fame,  
Nor peace, nor strength, nor skill in arms or arts,  
Shepherd those herds whom tyranny makes tame;  
Verse echoes not one beating of their hearts:  
History is but the shadow of their shame;  
Art veils her glass, or from the pageant starts  
As to oblivion their blind millions fleet,  
Staining that Heaven with obscene imagery  
Of their own likeness. What are numbers, knit  
By force or custom? Man who man would be,  
Must rule the empire of himself! in it  
Must be supreme, establishing his throne  
On vanquished will, quelling the anarchy  
Of hopes and fears, being himself alone.

---

### THE TRIUMPH OF PROMETHEUS.

THIS is the day, which down the void abyssm  
At the Earth-born's spell yawns for Heaven's des-  
potism,  
And Conquest is dragged captive through the  
deep;  
Love, from its awful throne of patient power

In the wise heart, from the last giddy hour  
    Of dead endurance, from the slippery, steep,  
And narrow verge of crag-like agony, springs  
    And folds over the world its healing wings.

Gentleness, Virtue, Wisdom, and Endurance,  
These are the seals of that most firm assurance  
    Which bars the pit over Destruction's strength ;  
And if, with infirm hand, Eternity,  
Mother of many acts and hours, should free  
    The serpent that would clasp her with his length,  
These are the spells by which to re-assume  
    An empire o'er the disentangled doom.

To suffer woes which Hope thinks infinite ;  
To forgive wrongs darker than death or night ;  
    To defy Power, which seems omnipotent ;  
To love, and bear ; to hope till Hope creates  
From its own wreck the thing it contemplates ;  
    Neither to change, nor falter, nor repent ;  
This, like thy glory, Titan, is to be  
Good, great and joyous, beautiful and free ;  
This is alone Life, Joy, Empire, and Victory !

*FELICIA HEMANS.*

1794—1835.

THE LANDING OF THE PILGRIM FATHERS  
IN NEW ENGLAND.

THE breaking waves dash'd high  
On a stern and rock-bound coast,  
And the woods against a stormy sky  
Their giant branches toss'd.

And the heavy night hung dark,  
The hills and waters o'er,  
When a band of exiles moor'd their bark  
On the wild New England shore.

Not as the conqueror comes,  
They, the true-hearted, came ;  
Not with the roll of the stirring drums,  
And the trumpet that sings of fame ;

Not as the flying come,  
In silence and in fear ;—  
They shook the depths of the desert gloom  
With their hymns of lofty cheer.

Amidst the storm they sang,  
And the stars heard and the sea ;  
And the distant aisles of the dim woods rang  
To the anthem of the free.

The ocean eagle soar'd  
From his nest by the white wave's foam ;  
And the rocking pines of the forest roar'd—  
This was their welcome home !

There were men with hoary hair  
Amidst that pilgrim band ;—  
Why had *they* come to wither there,  
Away from their childhood's land ?

There was woman's fearless eye,  
Lit by her deep love's truth ;  
There was manhood's brow serenely high,  
And the fiery heart of youth.

What sought they thus afar ?  
Bright jewels of the mine ?  
The wealth of seas, the sports of war ?  
They sought a faith's pure shrine.

Ay, call it holy ground,  
The soil where first they trode.  
They have left unstain'd what there they found--  
Freedom to worship God.

*JAMES MONTGOMERY.*

1771—1854.

[A Sheffield journalist, of liberal and humanitarian views.  
Was twice subjected to fine and imprisonment.]

THE PATRIOT'S PASS-WORD  
ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ARNOLD DE WINKELRIED,  
AT THE BATTLE OF SEMPACH.

“MAKE way for liberty !” he cried ;  
Made way for liberty, and died.

And now the work of life and death  
Hung on the passing of a breath ;  
The fire of conflict burn'd within,  
The battle trembled to begin ;  
Yet while the Austrians held their ground  
Point for assault was nowhere found ;  
Where'er the impatient Switzers gazed  
The unbroken line of lances blazed ;  
That line 'twere suicide to meet,  
And perish at their tyrants' feet :  
How could they rest within their graves,  
To leave their home the haunts of slaves ?  
Would they not feel their children tread,  
With clanking chains, above their head ?

It did depend on one indeed ;  
Behold him,—Arnold Winkelried ;  
There sounds not to the trump of fame  
The echo of a nobler name.  
Unmark'd he stood amidst the throng,  
In ruminat<sup>n</sup> deep and long,  
Till you might see, with sudden grace,  
The very thought come o'er his face,  
And by the motion of his form  
Anticipate the bursting storm,  
And by the uplifting of his brow  
Tell where the bolt would strike, and how.

But 'twas no sooner thought than done,  
The field was in a moment won ;  
“ Make way for liberty ! ” he cried,  
Then ran, with arms extended wide,  
As if his dearest friend to clasp ;  
Ten spears he swept within his grasp ;  
“ Make way for liberty ! ” he cried,  
Their keen points cross'd from side to side ;  
He bow'd amidst them like a tree,  
And thus made way for liberty.

Swift to the breach his comrades fly,  
“ Make way for liberty,” they cry,  
And through the Austrian phalanx dart,  
As rush'd the spears through Arnold's heart,  
While, instantaneous as his fall,  
Rout, ruin, panic seized them all ;  
An earthquake could not overthrow  
A city with a surer blow.

Thus Switzerland again was free,  
Thus death made way for liberty.

*WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.*

1794—1878.

## THE ANTIQUITY OF FREEDOM.

O FREEDOM ! thou art not, as poets dream,  
A fair young girl, with light and delicate limbs,  
And wavy tresses gushing from the cap  
With which the Roman master crowned his slave  
When he took off the gyves. A bearded man,  
Armed to the teeth, art thou ; one mailed hand  
Grasps the broad shield, and one the sword ; thy brow,  
Glorious in beauty though it be, is scarred  
With tokens of old wars ; thy massive limbs  
Are strong with struggling. Power at thee has launched  
His bolts, and with his lightnings smitten thee ;  
They could not quench the life thou hast from heaven.  
Merciless Power has dug thy dungeon deep,  
And his swart armourers, by a thousand fires,  
Have forged thy chain ; yet, while he deems thee bound,  
The links are shivered, and the prison walls  
Fall outward ; terribly thou springest forth,  
As springs the flame above a burning pile,  
And shoutest to the nations, who return  
Thy shoutings, while the pale oppressor flies

Thou shalt wax stronger with the lapse of years,  
But he shall fade into a feebler age ;  
Feebler, yet subtler. He shall weave his snares,  
And spring them on thy careless steps, and clap  
His withered hands, and from their ambush call  
His hordes to fall upon thee. He shall send  
Quaint maskers, wearing fair and gallant forms,  
To catch thy gaze, and uttering graceful words  
To charm thy ear ; while his sly imps, by stealth,  
Twine round thee threads of steel, light thread on thread  
That grow to fetters ; or bind down thy arms  
With chains concealed in chaplets. Oh ! not yet  
Mayst thou unbrace thy corslet, nor lay by  
Thy sword ; nor yet, O Freedom ! close thy lids  
In slumber ; for thine enemy never sleeps,  
And thou must watch and combat till the day  
Of the new earth and heaven. But wouldest thou rest  
Awhile from tumults and the frauds of men,  
These old and friendly solitudes invite  
Thy visit. They, while yet the forest trees  
Were young upon the unviolated earth,  
And yet the moss-stains on the rock were new,  
Beheld thy glorious childhood and rejoiced.

---

### THE GREEK PARTISAN.

OUR free flag is dancing  
    In the free mountain air,  
And burnished arms are glancing,  
    And warriors gathering there ;

And fearless is the little train  
Whose gallant bosoms shield it ;  
The blood that warms their hearts shall stain  
That banner, ere they yield it.  
Each dark eye is fixed on earth,  
And brief each solemn greeting ;  
There is no look nor sound of mirth,  
Where those stern men are meeting.

They go to the slaughter,  
To strike the sudden blow,  
And pour on earth, like water,  
The best blood of the foe ;  
To rush on them from rock and height,  
And clear the narrow valley,  
Or fire their camp at dead of night,  
And fly before they rally.  
Chains are round our country pressed,  
And cowards have betrayed her,  
And we must make her bleeding breast  
The grave of the invader.

Not till from her fetters  
We raise up Greece again,  
And write in bloody letters  
That tyranny is slain ;—  
Oh, not till then the smile shall steal  
Across those darkened faces,  
Nor one of all those warriors feel  
His children's dear embraces.  
Reap we not the ripened wheat,  
Till yonder hosts are flying,  
And all their bravest, at our feet,  
Like autumn sheaves are lying.

## WILLIAM TELL.

CHAINS may subdue the feeble spirit, but thee,  
Tell, of the iron heart ! they could not tame ;  
For thou wert of the mountains ; they proclaim  
The everlasting creed of liberty.  
That creed is written on the untrampled snow,  
Thundered by torrents which no power can hold,  
Save that of God, when he sends forth his cold,  
And breathed by winds that through the free heaven  
blow.

Thou, while thy prison walls were dark around,  
Didst meditate the lesson Nature taught,  
And to thy brief captivity was brought  
A vision of thy Switzerland unbound.  
The bitter cup they mingled, strengthened thee  
For the great work to set thy country free.

---

## 'SEVENTY-SIX.

## THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.

WHAT heroes from the woodland sprung,  
When, through the fresh awakened land,  
The thrilling cry of freedom rung,  
And to the work of warfare strung  
The yeoman's iron hand !

Hills flung the cry to hills around,  
And ocean-mart replied to mart,  
And streams, whose springs were yet unfound,  
Pealed far away the startling sound  
Into the forest's heart.

Then marched the brave from rocky steep,  
From mountain river swift and cold ;  
The borders of the stormy deep,  
The vales where gathered waters sleep,  
Sent up the strong and bold,—

As if the very earth again  
Grew quick with God's creating breath,  
And, from the sods of grove and glen,  
Rose ranks of lion-hearted men  
To battle to the death.

The wife, whose babe first smiled that day,  
The fair fond bride of yester eve,  
And aged sire and matron grey,  
Saw the loved warriors haste away,  
And deemed it sin to grieve.

Already had the strife begun ;  
Already blood on Concord's plain  
Along the springing grass had run,  
And blood had flowed at Lexington,  
Like brooks of April rain.

That death-stain on the vernal sward  
Hallowed to freedom all the shore ;  
In fragments fell the yoke abhorred—  
The footsteps of a foreign lord  
Profaned the soil no more.

*RALPH WALDO EMERSON.*

1803—1882.

## HYMN.

SUNG AT THE COMPLETION OF CONCORD MONUMENT,  
APRIL 19, 1836.

[The Battle of Concord, April 19, 1775, marked the commencement of the American War of Independence.]

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept,  
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps,  
And Time the ruined bridge has swept  
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,  
We set to-day a votive stone,  
That memory may their deed redeem,  
When like our sires our sons are gone.

Spirit! who made those freemen dare  
To die, or leave their children free,  
Bid time and nature gently spare  
The shaft we raise to them and Thee.



## PART II.



*EBENEZER ELLIOTT.*

1781—1849.

[Author of the famous “Corn Law Rhymes.” He worked in the foundry as a child, and has been called the Poet of the Poor.]

## THE REVOLUTION OF 1832.

SEE, the slow Angel writhes in dreams of pain !  
His cheek indignant glows !  
Like Stanedge, shaking thunder from his mane,  
He starts from his repose.  
Wide, wide his earthquake-voice is felt and heard ;  
“Arise, ye brave and just !”  
The living sea is to its centre stirr’d—  
And, lo ! our foes are Dust !  
The earth beneath the feet of millions quakes ;  
The whirlwind cloud is riv’n ;  
As midnight, smitten into lightning, wakes,  
So waked the sword of Heav’n !  
The angel drew not from its sheath that sword ;  
He spake, and all was done !  
Night fled away before the Almighty word,  
And, lo !—the sun ! the sun !

---

## BATTLE SONG.

DAY, like our souls, is fiercely dark ;  
What then ? 'Tis day !  
We sleep no more ; the cock crows—hark !  
To arms ! away !  
They come ! they come ! the knell is rung  
Of us or them ;  
Wide o'er their march the pomp is flung  
Of gold and gem.  
What collar'd hound of lawless sway,  
To famine dear—  
What pension'd slave of Attila  
Leads in the rear ?  
Come they from Scythian wilds afar,  
Our blood to spill ?  
Wear they the livery of the Czar ?  
They do his will.  
Nor tassell'd silk, nor epaulette,  
Nor plume, nor torse—  
No splendour gilds, all sternly met,  
Our foot and horse.  
But, dark and still, we inly glow,  
Condensed in ire !  
Strike, tawdry slaves, and ye shall know  
Our gloom is fire !  
In vain your pomp, ye evil powers,  
Insults the land ;  
Wrongs, vengeance, and the cause are ours,  
And God's right hand !  
Madmen ! they trample into snakes  
The wormy clod !  
Like fire, beneath their feet awakes  
The sword of God !

Behind, before, above, below,  
They rouse the brave ;  
Where'er they go they make a foe,  
Or find a grave.

---

## REFORM.

Too long endured, a power and will,  
That would be nought, or first in ill,  
Had wasted wealth, and palsied skill,  
And fed on toil-worn poverty.

They call'd the poor a rope of sand ;  
And lo ! no rich man's voice or hand  
Was raised throughout the suffering land  
Against their long iniquity.

They taught the self-robb'd sons of pride  
To turn from toil and want aside,  
And coin their hearts guilt-petrified,  
To buy a smile from infamy.

The philter'd lion yawn'd in vain,  
While o'er his eyes, and o'er his mane,  
They hung a picklock, mask, and chain—  
True emblems of his dignity.

They murder'd Hope, they fetter'd Trade ;  
The clouds to blood, the sun to shade,  
And every good that God had made  
They turned to bane and mockery.

Love, plant of Heaven, and sent to show  
One bliss divine to earth below,  
Changed by their frown, bore crime and woe,  
And breathed, for fragrance, pestilence.

With Freedom's plume, and Honour's gem,  
They deck'd Abaddon's diadem,  
And call'd on hell to shout for them  
The holiest name of holiness.

They knew no interest but their own ;  
They shook the State, they shook the Throne,  
They shook the world ; and God alone  
Seem'd safe in his omnipotence.

Did then his thunder rend the skies,  
To bid the dead in soul arise ?—  
The dreadful glare of sullen eyes  
Alone warn'd cruel tyranny.

A murmur from a trampled worm,  
A whisper in the cloudless storm—  
Yet these, even these, announced Reform,  
And Famine's scowl was prophecy !

Nor then remorse, nor tardy shame,  
Nor love of praise, nor dread of blame,  
But tongues of fire, and words of flame,  
Roused Mammon from his apathy.

At length a MAN\* to Mercia spoke !  
From smitten hearts the lightning broke ;  
The slow invincible awoke ;  
And England's frown was victory !

O years of crime ! The great and true—  
The nobly wise—are still the few,  
Who bid Truth grow where Falsehood grew,  
And plant it for eternity.

---

## SONG.

LET idlers despair ! there is hope for the wise  
Who rely on their own hearts and hands ;  
And we read in their souls, by the flash of their eyes,  
That our land is the noblest of lands.  
Let knaves fear for England, whose thoughts wear a  
mask,  
While a war on our trenchers they wage ;  
Free trade and no favour is all that we ask !  
Fair play, and the world for a stage !

Secure in their baseness, the lofty and bold  
Look down on their victims beneath ;  
Like snow on a skylight, exalted and cold,  
They shine o'er the shadow of death ;  
In the warm sun of knowledge that kindles our blood,  
And fills our cheer'd spirits with day,  
Their splendour, condemn'd by the brave and the good,  
Like a palace of ice melts away.

\* Henry Brougham.

Our compass, which married the East to the West,  
 Our press, which makes many minds one,  
 Our steam-sinew'd giant that toils without rest,  
 Proclaim that our perils are gone.  
 We want but the right, which the God of the right  
 Denies not to birds and to bees ;  
 The charter of Nature ! that bids the wing'd light  
 Fly chainless as winds o'er the seas.

---

## THE PEOPLE'S ANTHEM.

WHEN wilt thou save the people ?  
 O God of mercy ! when ?  
 Not kings and lords, but nations !  
 Not thrones and crowns, but men !  
 Flowers of thy heart, O God, are they !  
 Let them not pass, like weeds, away !  
 Their heritage a sunless day !  
 God save the people !

Shall crime bring crime for ever,  
 Strength aiding still the strong ?  
 Is it thy will, O Father !  
 That man shall toil for wrong ?  
 “ No ! ” say thy mountains ; “ No ! ” thy skies ;  
 “ Man's clouded sun shall brightly rise,  
 And songs be heard instead of sighs.”  
 God save the people !

When wilt thou save the people?

O God of mercy! when?

The people, Lord ! the people !

Not thrones and crowns, but men !

God save the people ! thine they are ;

Thy children, as thy angels fair :

Save them from bondage and despair !

God save the people !

*ANONYMOUS.*

[The following "Union Hymn," wrongly attributed to the Rev. Hugh Hutton, is said to have been "familiar to every child in the land." It was sung at an immense mass meeting at Birmingham in 1832.]

Lo ! we answer ! see, we come  
Quick at Freedom's holy call.  
We come, we come, we come, we come,  
To do the glorious work of all ;  
And hark ! we raise from sea to sea  
The sacred watchword, Liberty !

God is our guide ! from field, from wave,  
From plough, from anvil, and from loom  
We come, our country's rights to save  
And speak a tyrant faction's doom.  
And hark ! we raise from sea to sea  
The sacred watchword, Liberty !

God is our guide ! no swords we draw,  
We kindle not war's battle-fires ;  
By union, justice, reason, law,  
We claim the birthright of our sires.  
We raise the watchword, Liberty—  
We will, we will, we will be free !

*MICHAEL THOMAS SADLER.*

1780—1835.

[Noted for his philanthropic interest on behalf of the agricultural and manufacturing poor. M.P. for Aldborough, 1830.]

## THE FACTORY GIRL'S LAST DAY.

'TWAS on a winter's morning,  
    The weather wet and wild,  
Three hours before the dawning  
    The father roused his child ;  
Her daily morsel bringing,  
    The darksome room he paced,  
And cried, " The bell is ringing,  
    My hapless darling, haste ! "

" Father, I'm up, but weary,  
    I scarce can reach the door,  
And long the way and dreary,—  
    O carry me once more !  
To help us we've no mother;  
    And you have no employ;  
They killed my little brother,—  
    Like him I'll work and die ! "

Her wasted form seemed nothing,—  
    The load was at his heart ;  
The sufferer he kept soothing  
    Till at the mill they part.

The overlooker met her,  
As to her frame she crept,  
And with his thong he beat her,  
And cursed her as she wept.

Alas ! what hours of horror  
Made up her latest day ;  
In toil, and pain, and sorrow,  
They slowly passed away :  
It seemed, as she grew weaker,  
The threads the oftener broke,  
The rapid wheels ran quicker,  
And heavier fell the stroke.

The sun had long descended,  
But night brought no repose ;  
*Her* day began and ended  
As cruel tyrants chose.  
At length a little neighbour  
Her halfpenny she paid  
To take her last hour's labour,  
While by her frame she laid.

At last, the engine ceasing,  
The captives homeward rushed ;  
She thought her strength increasing—  
'Twas hope her spirits flushed :  
She left, but oft she tarried,  
She fell and rose no more,  
Till, by her comrades carried,  
She reached her father's door.

All night, with tortured feeling,  
    He watched his speechless child ;  
While, close beside her kneeling,  
    She knew him not, nor smiled.  
Again the factory's ringing  
    Her last perceptions tried ;  
When, from her straw-bed springing,  
    “ ‘Tis time ! ” she shrieked, and died !

That night a chariot passed her,  
    While on the ground she lay ;  
The daughters of her master  
    An evening visit pay :  
Their tender hearts were sighing  
    As negro wrongs were told,—  
While the white slave lay dying,  
    Who earned their father’s gold !

*ROBERT NICOLL.*

1814—1837.

[A young Scotch poet and enthusiast; editor of the *Leeds Times*. His "Poems and Lyrics" were published in 1835.]

## THE BATTLE-WORD.

IN Scotland's cause, for Scotland's gude,  
We'll blithely shed our dearest bluid,  
And stand or fa' as freemen should,  
As we hae done before.

Now proudly come the foemen on,  
Against auld Scotland's mountain throne ;  
The sun its last on them hath shone,—  
*Claymore!*

We're freemen, and maun ne'er be slaves—  
We fight for heather-cover'd graves—  
To tell yon comin' warrior-waves

That men our mothers bore ;  
For maidens loved, for parents dear,  
Fourscore would battle were it here,  
An' stand like us, nor think o' fear—  
*Claymore!*

They break—they halt—they form again—  
We well have borne the battle-strain :  
The grass that clothes the reeking plain  
Is wet wi' stranger gore.

Remember ! for our native soil,  
 That a' we love at hame may smile;  
 Nerve ilka arm for bluidy toil—  
*Claymore!*

We've conquer'd ! wives and bairns a',  
 We've conquered ! baith for grit and sma',  
 For maid and matron, puir and braw—  
 The bluidy darg is o'er.  
 Our fathers' weapon and our ain,  
 Thou'l't be our sons' we bawly ken—  
 By foughten fields, by foemen slain,  
*Claymore!*

---

## THE PUIR FOLK.

SOME grow fu' proud o'er bags o' gowd,  
 And some are proud o' learning :  
 An honest poor man's worthy name  
 I take delight in earning.  
 Slaves needna try to run us down—  
 To knaves we're unco dour folk ;  
 We're often wrang'd, but, deil may care !  
 We're honest folk, though puir folk !

Wi' Wallace wight we fought fu' weel,  
 When lairds and lords were jinking ;  
 They knelt before the tyrant loun—  
 We brak his crown I'm thinking.

The muckle men he bought wi' gowd—  
 Syne he began to jeer folk;  
 But neither swords, nor gowd, nor guile,  
 Could turn the sturdy puir folk !

When auld King Charlie tried to bind  
 Wi' airn saul and conscience,  
 In virtue o' his right divine,  
 And ither daft-like nonsense—  
 Wha raised at Marston such a stour,  
 And made the tyrants fear folk ?  
 Wha prayed and fought wi' Pym and Noll ?—  
 The trusty, truthfu' puir folk !

Wha ance upon auld Scotland's hills  
 Were hunted like the paitrick,  
 And hack'd wi' swords, and shot wi' guns,  
 Fra' Tummel's bank to Ettrick,  
 Because they wouldna' let the priest  
 About their conscience steer folk ?  
 The lairds were bloodhounds to the clan—  
 The Martyrs were the puir folk !

When Boston boys at Bunker's Hill  
 Gart Slavery's minions falter ;  
 While ilka hearth in a' the bay  
 Was made fair Freedom's altar ;  
 Wha fought the fight, and gained the day ?  
 Gae wa', ye knaves ! 'twas our folk :  
 The beaten great men served a king—  
 The victors a' were puir folk !

We saw the corn and haud the plough,  
We a' work for our living ;  
We gather nougħt but what we've sawn—  
A' else we reckon thieving :  
And for the loun wha fears to say  
He comes o' lowly, sma' folk,  
A wizen'd soul the creature has—  
Disown him will the puir folk !

Great sirs, and mighty men o' earth,  
Ye often sair misca' us ;  
And hunger, cauld, and poverty  
Come after ye to throw us :  
Yet up our hearts we strive to heeze,  
In spite o' you and your folk ;  
But mind, enough's as gude's a feast,  
Although we be but puir folk.

We thank the Powers for gude and ill,  
As grateful folk should do, man ;  
But maist o' a' because our sires  
Were tailors, smiths, and ploughmen.  
Good men they were, as staunch as steel ;  
They didna wrack and screw folk  
Wi' empty pouches, honest hearts—  
Thank God, we come o' puir folk !

---

## WE ARE FREE.

LIKE lightning's flash  
Upon the foe  
We burst, and laid  
Their glories low !  
Like mountain-floods  
We on them came—  
Like withering blast  
Of scorching flame,  
Like hurricane  
Upon the sea—  
Shout, shout again,—  
Shout, *We are Free!*

We struck for God—  
We struck for life—  
We struck for sire—  
We struck for wife—  
We struck for home—  
We struck for all  
That man doth lose  
By bearing thrall !  
We struck 'gainst chains,  
For liberty !  
Now, for our pains,  
Shout, *We are Free!*

Give to the slain  
A sigh—a tear;  
A curse to those  
Who spoke of fear !

Then eat your bread  
In peace ; for now  
The tyrant's pride  
Is lying low !  
His strength is broken—  
His minions flee—  
The Voice hath spoken—  
*Shout, We are Free!*

*WILLIAM JOHNSON FOX.*

1786—1864.

[Unitarian preacher. M. P. for Oldham, 1847.]

## PRAISE TO THE HEROES.

PRAISE to the heroes who struck for the right,  
When freedom and truth were defended in fight :  
Of blood-shedding hirelings the deeds are abhorred,  
But the patriot smiles, and we honour his sword.

Praise to the martyrs who died for the right,  
Nor ever bowed down at the bidding of might :  
Their ashes were cast all abroad on the wind,  
But more widely the blessings they won for mankind.

Praise to the sages, the teachers of right,  
Whose voice in the darkness said “ Let there be light.”  
The sophist may gain the renown of an hour ;  
But wisdom is glory, while knowledge is power.

Heroes, martyrs, and sages, true prophets of right !  
They foresaw, and they made man’s futurity bright.  
Their fame will ascend till the world sink in flames :  
Be their spirit in all who sing praise to their names.

## “THE BARONS BOLD.”

THE Barons bold on Runnymede  
By Union won their charter;  
True men were they, prepared to bleed,  
But not their rights to barter:  
And they swore that England's laws  
Were above a Tyrant's word;  
And they proved that freedom's cause  
Was above a Tyrant's sword:  
Then honour we  
The memory  
Of those Barons brave united;  
And like their band,  
Join hand to hand,  
Our wrongs shall soon be righted.

The Commons brave, in Charles's time,  
By Union made the Crown fall,  
And showed the world how Royal crime  
Should lead to Royal downfall:  
And they swore that Rights and Laws  
Were above a Monarch's word;  
And they raised the Nation's cause  
Above the Monarch's sword:  
Then honour we  
The memory  
Of those Commons brave, united;  
And like their band,  
Join hand to hand,  
Our wrongs shall soon be righted.

The People firm, from Court and Peers,  
    By Union won Reform, sirs,  
And, Union safe, the Nation steers  
    Through sunshine and through storm, sirs :  
And we swear that equal laws  
    Shall prevail o'er lordlings' words,  
And can prove that Freedom's cause  
    Is too strong for hireling swords :  
Then honour we  
    The victory  
Of the people brave, united ;  
    Let all our bands  
    Join hearts and hands,  
Our wrongs shall all be righted.

1832.

*HARRIET MARTINEAU.*

1802—1876.

## HYMN OF THE POLISH EXILES.

GOD ! scorched by battle-fires we stand  
Before thee on thy throne of snows ;  
But, Father, in this silent land,  
We seek no refuge nor repose :  
We ask, and shall not ask in vain,—  
“ Give us our heritage again ! ”

Thy winds are ice-bound in the sea ;  
Thine eagle cowers till storms are past ;  
Lord ! when those moaning winds are free,  
When eagles mount upon the blast,  
O breathe upon our icy chain,  
And float our Poland’s flag again !

’Twas for thy cause we once were strong ;  
Thou wilt not doom that cause to death !  
O God, our struggle has been long ;  
Thou wilt not quench our glimmering faith !  
Thou hear’st the murmurs of our pain,—  
“ Give us our heritage again ! ”

## THOMAS WADE.

1805—1875.

[Journalist, dramatist, and poet, holding the faith of the advanced Liberal school. His *Mundi et Cordis Carmina*, "Poems and Sonnets," appeared in 1835, containing the "Reform Bill Hymns."]

## A SONG OF THE PEOPLE.

THE hoary dotard, Aristocracy,  
Shakes in his crumbling palace-halls ; for hark !  
On the broad ocean of Democracy  
Floats Liberty, prepared to disembark  
On her predestin'd strand,  
This English land !

In glory, o'er a world of tribulation,  
She raiseth her bright banner—as the Sun  
O'er clouds and storms ascendeth burningly—  
And, with a loud and multitudinous voice,  
The millions of the congregated Nation  
(Myriad-lipp'd ; but its great hearts as one !)  
Rejoice !  
They fear ! the Few who on our lives have fed—  
The Tramplers on the Many—turn in dread !  
And we, the mighty People, to regain  
Our stolen birthright have not wrought in vain—  
We live ! we live, again !

Still bloodless be the sword we draw,  
To make our lawful wills the law  
O'er dull Convention, Tyranny, and Wrong,  
Made by the Ignorance of Ages strong !  
No gory weapon will we deign to wield,  
Drenching with brother-blood our brother's field ;  
Dungeons and chains, death-blocks and torturings  
Shall vanish from the world with Slaves and Kings :  
We fight to conquer and convert our Foes,  
Not use them bloodily ! From Freedom flows  
    Nor human tears, nor human gore :  
With spiritual weapons for things spiritual  
    The living Many battle, as of yore  
Did here and there some solitary Sage,  
The one soul-beacon of his mindless Age !  
    For Knowledge now on myriad wings  
From the Press, self-plumed, springs  
    And floats around us all !  
    We have not striven in vain  
    Against the tyrant-chain !  
They fear ! the Few who on our lives have fed—  
The Trampers on the Many—turn in dread !  
    We live ! we live, again !

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## THE NEWSPAPER.

IT goeth forth, an instrument of power,  
    Ruling and ruled by great society ;  
Noting the human business of the hour,  
    With retrospection far, and prophecy ;  
Showing the world the world, and to the tide  
Of Time its own vast flowings—self-supplied !

A wondrous and a mighty Thing it is,  
Speaking to distant millions as to near ;  
Rousing all passions and all sympathies,  
And forcing the earth's space to disappear  
By its connecting course o'er all the lands,  
Which makes the globe's antipodes shake hands !

Before its all-detecting, all-proclaiming,  
And all-truth-telling voice, the Tyrant's throne  
And the bald Bigot's altar, heavenward flaming  
With fires derived from hell, quiver and groan ;  
For it is clothed in liberty and light,  
And casts destroying sun-shafts through their night !

Hail it, ye stirring Millions, as your Saver  
From the old law of things, that kept ye under  
The foot-tread of the Few—as the way-paver  
To your redemption-goal ! And, of its thunder  
Ye who sit throned the Joves invisible,  
    Use the mighty weapon well !  
    Hide it not in cloudy sphere  
    Of pale apathy or fear ;  
But ever let its radiant bolts be hurl'd  
Against the giant Ills that still bestride the World !

*T. NOEL.*

[“Rymes and Roundelayes,” 1841.]

## THE PAUPER’S DRIVE.

THERE’S a grim one-horse hearse in a jolly round trot ;  
To the churchyard a pauper is going, I wot ;  
The road it is rough, and the hearse has no springs,  
And hark to the dirge that the sad driver sings :—

“ Rattle his bones over the stones ;  
He’s only a pauper, whom nobody owns ! ”

Oh, where are the mourners? alas ! there are none ;  
He has left not a gap in the world now he’s gone,  
Not a tear in the eye of child, woman, or man—  
To the grave with his carcase as fast as you can.

“ Rattle his bones over the stones ;  
He’s only a pauper, whom nobody owns ! ”

What a jolting and creaking, and splashing and din ;  
The whip how it cracks ! and the wheels how they spin !  
How the dirt, right and left, o’er the hedges is hurled !  
The pauper at length makes a noise in the world.

“ Rattle his bones over the stones ;  
He’s only a pauper, whom nobody owns ! ”

Poor pauper defunct, he has made some approach  
To gentility, now that he's stretched in a coach,  
He's taking a drive in his carriage at last ;  
But it will not be long, if he goes on so fast.

“ Rattle his bones over the stones ;  
He's only a pauper, whom nobody owns ! ”

You bumpkin, who stare at your brother conveyed ;  
Behold what respect to a cloddy is paid,  
And be joyful to think, when by death you're laid low,  
You've a chance to the grave like a gemman to go.

“ Rattle his bones over the stones ;  
He's only a pauper, whom nobody owns ! ”

But a truce to this strain—for my soul it is sad,  
To think that a heart in humanity clad  
Should make, like the brutes, such a desolate end,  
And depart from the light without leaving a friend.

Bear softly his bones over the stones,  
Though a pauper, he's one whom his Maker yet owns.

*EBENEZER JONES.*

1820—1860.

[One of the most talented of the many writers in sympathy with the Chartist movement. "Studies of Sensation and Event," published 1843.]

## A COMING CRY.

THE few to whom the law hath given the earth God gives to all

Do tell us that for them alone its fruits increase and fall ;  
They tell us that by labour we may earn our daily bread,  
But they take the labour for their engines that work on unfed ;

And so we starve ; and now the few have publish'd a decree—

Starve on, or eat in workhouses the crumbs of charity ;  
Perhaps it's better than starvation,—once we'll pray, and then

We'll all go building workhouses, million, million men !

We'll all go building workhouses,—million, million hands,  
So jointed wondrously by God, to work love's wise commands ;

We'll all go building workhouses,—million, million minds,  
By great God charter'd to condemn whatever harms or binds ;

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The God-given mind shall image, the God-given hand  
 shall build  
 The prisons for God's children, by the earth-lords will'd ;  
 Perhaps it's better than starvation, once we'll pray, and then  
 We'll all go building workhouses,—million, million men.

What'll we do with the workhouses ? million, million  
 men !  
 Shall we all lie down and madden, each in his lonely  
 den ?  
 What ! we whose sires made Cressy ! we, men of Nelson's  
 mould !  
 We, of the Russells' country,—God's Englishmen the  
 bold !  
 Will we, at earth's lords' bidding, build ourselves dis-  
 honour'd graves ?  
 Will we who've made this England, endure to be its  
 slaves ?  
 Thrones totter before the answer !—once we'll pray, and then  
 We'll all go building workhouses, million, million men.

---

*SONG OF THE KINGS OF GOLD.*

OURS all are marble halls,  
 Amid untrodden groves,  
 Where music ever calls,  
 Where faintest perfume roves ;

And thousands toiling moan,  
That gorgeous robes may fold  
The haughty forms alone  
Of us—the Kings of Gold.

## CHORUS—

We cannot count our slaves,  
Nothing bounds our sway,  
Our will destroys and saves,  
We let, we create, we slay.  
Ha ! ha ! who are Gods ?

Purple, and crimson, and blue,  
Jewels, and silk, and pearl,  
All splendours of form and hue,  
Our charm'd existence furl ;  
When dared shadow dim  
The glow in our wine-cups roll'd ?  
When droop'd the banquet-hymn  
Raised for the Kings of Gold ?

The earth, the earth, is ours !  
Its corn, its fruits, its wine,  
Its sun, its rain, its flowers,  
Ours, all, all !—cannot shine  
One sunlight ray but where  
Our mighty titles hold ;  
Wherever life is, there  
Possess the Kings of Gold.

And all on earth that lives,  
Woman, and man, and child,  
Us trembling homage gives ;  
Aye trampled, sport-defiled,  
None dareth raise one frown,  
Or slightest questioning hold ;  
Our scorn but strikes them down  
To adore the Kings of Gold.

On beds of azure down,  
In halls of torturing light,  
Our poison'd harlots moan,  
And burning toss in sight ;  
They are ours—for us they burn ;  
They are ours, to reject, to hold ;  
We taste—we exalt—we spurn—  
For we are the Kings of Gold.

The father writhes a smile,  
As we seize his red-lipp'd girl,  
His white-loin'd wife ; ay, while  
Fierce millions burn, to hurl  
Rocks on our regal brows,  
Knives in our hearts to hold—  
They pale, prepare them bows  
At the step of the Kings of Gold.

In a glorious sea of hate,  
Eternal rocks we stand ;  
Our joy is our lonely state,  
And our trust our own right hand ;

We frown, and nations shrink ;  
 They curse, but our swords are old ;  
 And the wine of their rage deep drink  
 The dauntless Kings of Gold.

## CHORUS—

We cannot count our slaves,  
 Nothing bounds our sway,  
 Our will destroys and saves,  
 We let, we create, we slay.  
 Ha ! ha ! who are Gods ?

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## A SLAVE'S TRIUMPH.

“DEATH to the aristocrats ! ” the people roar’d,—  
 Death to my master—each man fiercely thought,—  
 As through the capital of France they pour’d,  
 A revolution’s mob, with madness fraught :  
 Before a stately building paused one band ;  
 Awhile its leader bade them there abide,  
 And where his Lord and his Lord’s kindred stand,  
 He sprang and cried—

“Where is your scorn ! where is the insolent eye,  
 Narrowing its lids to look at me ; where, where,  
 The averted face that seemed wrench’d awry,  
 Sick at my presence, that we yet did bear,  
 Even to enslave me ! Seem thus sick once more !  
 With narrowing eyes now speak me your decree !  
 For beneath your palace human tigers roar !—  
 I hold the key !

“ You merciless wretches ! what ! you kneel, you whine,  
To smile at me you dare ! One smile again,  
And the mob is rending ye :—rise, masters mine !  
I’ll give you a boon to see your old disdain ;  
To hear your words slow, insolent, as of yore,  
Chuckle at the shame they knew they burn’d through  
me ;  
For beneath your palace human tigers roar !—  
I hold the key !

“ God ! how they hate me ! this, this, this, is life !  
Aha ! white fiends ! I am merciless ! one hour  
Ago, and ye might have slain me with the knife,  
When ’neath your whips my flesh did shrink and cower !  
Had ye but known, when to slay me ye forbore,  
How I drank your blood, while I for life did plea !  
For the tigers are starved that underneath you roar !—  
And I hold the key !

“ Can you not tell these avengers of my shame  
How I loathe, despise them ;—ye were saved, saved,  
saved !  
The beasts have lick’d your feet, and again would tame !  
Aha ! they will sword you when this hand is waved !  
They will wrench your hearts out, stumble in your gore !  
Can you not speak them ? beasts they are like ye !  
But mine, mine, mine ! For you they rage and roar !—  
I hold the key ! ”

*THE HON. GEO. SYDNEY SMYTHE.*

1818—1857.

[Author of "Historic Fancies," and other works. Afterwards Viscount Strangford.]

*THE JACOBIN OF PARIS.*

Ho, St. Antoine ! Ho, St. Antoine,—thou quarter of the poor,  
Arise with all thy households, and pour them from thy door ;  
Rouse thy attics and thy garrets,—rouse cellar, cell, and cave,—  
Rouse over-worked and over-taxed—the starving and the slave.

"Canaille"—ay, we remember it, that word of dainty scorn,  
They flung us from the chariots, the high and haughty born.  
Canaille—canaille—ay, here we throng, and we will show to-night,  
How ungloved hand, with pike and brand, can help itself to right.

It was a July evening, and the summer moon shone  
fair,  
When first the people rose, in the grandeur of despair.  
But not for greed, or gain, or gold, to plunder or to  
steal,—  
We spared the gorgeous Tuilleries,—we levelled the  
Bastille.

A little year, we met once more, yea “Canaille” met  
that day,  
In the very heart of *his* Versailles, to beard the man  
Capet;  
And we brought him back to Paris, in a measured train  
and slow,  
And we shouted to his face for Barnave and Mirabeau.

Ho, Condé, wert thou coming, with thy truant Chevaliers,  
Did'st thou swear they should avenge the Austrian  
wanton's tears?  
Ho, Artois, art thou arming, for England's ceaseless pay,  
Thy Brunswickers, and Hessians, and Brigands of  
Vendée?

Come, then, with every hireling, Slave, Croat, and  
Cossack,  
We dare your war, beware of ours—we fling you  
freedom back.  
What, Tyrants, did you menace us,—now tremble for  
your own!  
You have heard the glorious tidings of Valmy and  
Argonne!

How like the Greek of olden time, who in the self-same  
hour,  
At Platœa, and at Mycale, twice crushed the invader's  
power;  
So we had each our victory, and each our double fray,  
Dumouriez with the stranger, and *we* at the Abbaye.

Oh, but it was a glorious hour, that ne'er again may be;  
It was a night of fierce delight we never more shall see.  
That blood-stained floor, that foes' red gore, the rich and  
ruddy wine,  
And the strong sense, all felt within,—our work it was  
divine!

They knew that men were brothers, but in their lust they  
trod  
On the lessons of their priests, and the warnings of their  
God.  
They knew that men were brothers, but they heeded not  
the Lord,  
So we taught them the great Truth anew, with fire and  
with sword.

Oh, but it was a glorious hour, that vengeance that we  
wreaked,  
When the Mighty knelt for pardon, and the Great in  
anguish shrieked!  
But we jeered them for their little hearts, and mocked  
their selfish fears,  
For we thought the while of all their crimes, of twice  
five hundred years.

He used to laugh at justice, that gay Aristocrat,  
He used to scoff at mercy, but he knelt to us for that !  
But with untiring hate we struck, and as our victim fell,  
He heard—to hear them echoed soon—the cries and  
jest of Hell.

Ho, St. Antoine, arouse thee now,—Ho, brave Septem-  
brists all,

The Tocsin rings, as then it rung ! Arise unto its call !  
For the True Friend of the people, and our own Père  
Duchêne

Have told us, they have need of the people's arms again.

For the Gironde hath turned traitor, and the Moderates  
have sold

The hard-earned rights of Hoche's fights, for promise of  
Pitt's gold.

And the Pedant, and the Upstart, as Upstart only can,  
Have dared deride, in lettered pride, the plain and  
working man.

What, We, who burst the bondage our fathers bore so  
long,

That Oppression had seemed sacred in its venerable  
wrong,—

What, We, who have outspoken, and the whole world  
obeyed,

With its Princes, and its Monarchs, on their high thrones  
afraid,—

What, We, who broke that mighty yoke,—shall we quail  
before Brissot ?

And shall we bow to him as lowly, as he would have us  
bow ?

And shall we learn the Courtier's lisp, and shall we  
    cringe and sue  
To the lily hand of fair Roland, like love-sick Barbaroux?

No, by Great Heaven, we have not riven the mighty  
    chains of old,  
The State-craft, and the Priestcraft, and the Grandeur  
    and the Gold,  
To be ground down by Doctrines—to be crushed by  
    Forms and Schools,  
To starve upon their Corn Laws, but to live upon their  
    rules.

No, if we must have leaders, they like ourselves shall be,  
Who have struggled and have conquered with single  
    hearts and free :  
Who do not ape the Noble, nor affect the Noble's air,  
With Tallien for a Richelieu, and Louvet for Voltaire.

No, we will have such leaders as the Roman Tribunes  
    were,  
Couthon and young St. Just and simple Robespierre ;  
Now glory to their garrets, it is nobler far to own,  
Than the fair half-hundred palaces and the Carlovingian  
    throne.

And glory to the thousand proofs that day by day they  
    give  
Of some great end to which they tend, those solemn lives  
    they live.  
When the Monarch and the Anarch alike shall pass away,  
And morn shall break, and man awake, in the light of a  
    fairer day.

*WATHEN MARK WILKS CALL.*

Died 1890.

[Author of "Reverberations," 1842.]

## KOSSUTH AND THE HUNGARIANS.

KOSSUTH and the brave men of Hungary !  
Champions ye are of freedom and of truth ;  
Like children of the world in her fresh youth,  
Stand forth, stand forth, for all the earth to see !  
A very ancient and a noble cause  
Invites you, calls you, clothes you with new might.  
Oh, doubly weaponed are you with the right,  
Supported by the old majestic laws.  
Now for all noble growth of mind and heart  
The nations look to you ; be strong and free,  
And, with a fame that never shall depart,  
Stand forth, stand forth, for all the world to see,  
O champions both of temple and of mart,  
Kossuth and the brave men of Hungary !

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## MAZZINI.

MAZZINI ! like to some majestic tower,  
On which the everlasting stars do sit,  
While the unconquered heaven bends over it,  
And ocean shouts below with giant power,

Thou standest, while the people gather fast,  
Thrilled by thy words that strengthen and inspire,  
And burning like a forest all on fire,  
That flares and shakes beneath the thundering blast.  
Silent and strong thou standest evermore,  
Worthy of honour in all time to come,  
Whether thou teach a wise and noble lore  
To wandering children in an exile's home,  
Or clothe with fear and splendour, as of yore,  
The City of the World, the people's Rome.

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## PROTECTION.

THE darkness and the dread and the despair  
Lie thick and heavy on the human heart,  
Which nurses fear, and hopes like fears, apart,  
Half-stifled, like caged birds, for want of air ;  
Or if a brother acts a brother's part,  
The converse still is of low-thoughted care.  
Children that should in the green meadows live,  
And prattle to their mothers, meek and fair,  
Of cowslips, daisies, birds, and merry play,  
Taking ten kisses for each kiss they give,  
Talk over common wants of every day,  
Or ask the old question—Is there any bread?  
While, with the murmur'd curse or silence dread,  
Young fathers stand around with hair grief-grey.

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## THE ENFRANCHISED LABOURER.

BUT Labour now is free, and there is hope !  
Brave men stand forth, and lo ! a light sublime,  
Like Morning, breaks along the sky of Time,  
And a new Sun ascends our heaven's pale cope.  
Joy to old England ! Joy with Freedom comes :  
Our cottage homes are beautiful again,  
Dear nature's gifts the kingly peasant sums,  
And sings and worships in her ancient fane.  
Joy to the nations ! Every country bears  
All fruits, all flowers. Joy ! there is no more sea,  
Our spears are pruning-hooks, our swords are shares,  
Men form one great and tranquil brotherhood,  
Are brave and gentle, courteous, wise and free,  
And God looks down and sees that it is good.

*THOMAS COOPER.*

1805—1892.

[Chartist poet. His "Purgatory of Suicides, a Prison-Rhyme," was written during a two years' imprisonment in Stafford gaol for a speech to the colliers in 1842.]

## HAIL, HOLIEST LIBERTY.

HAIL, holiest Liberty ! who hast thy shrine  
Deep in the faithful patriot's soul recess'd,—  
Diffusing from thy visage light divine  
That glads the dungeon's gloom and drear unrest,  
Until it beams with visions ever blest  
Of Right triumphant over hoary Wrong,  
And Truth victorious over Fraud confest,  
And new-born nations joining choral song  
O'er earth—become one temple for thy brother-throng !

Hail, sun-bright Liberty ! Life-source of Truth,  
Without whom Knowledge waxeth sere, and falls  
Into her dotage; while with lusty youth  
Thou sinewest Reason till she disenthralles  
Her essence of Time's dreams, nor basely crawls  
At eld Authority's decrepid feet;  
But calmly to the toil of search upcalls  
Her vigour, and full soon each plausible cheat  
Detects, and winnoweth Folly's chaff from Wisdom's  
wheat.

Thou great palladium of the moral man,  
 If thee by sloth self-treasonous he lose,—  
 Or foiled by force, or duped by charlatan,—  
 How soon the serfish spirit doth diffuse  
 Its influence through blood, and bones, and thews,  
 Until his very form, his brow, his look,  
 Forfeit their grandeur, and each gesture shows,  
 Ere the low whine follows his lord's rebuke,  
 What depth of insult, now, his slavish soul can brook !

But, garbed in humblest gear, if his birthright  
 Be yet unbartered, unpurloined, unstained;  
 If still his forehead wear thy sigil bright ;  
 How noble is his mien, how unconstrained  
 He stands a witness for the truth, unfeigned,  
 Or champion for the right, o'erawing kings  
 And lordly powers, who feel as if arraigned  
 Before their culprit; and with homagings  
 Are fain to bow, and own themselves but meaner things.

—From *The Purgatory of Suicides.*

### CHARTIST SONG.

THE time shall come when Wrong shall end,  
 When peasant to peer no more shall bend—  
 When the lordly Few shall lose their sway,  
 And the Many no more their frown obey.  
 Toil, brothers, toil, till the work is done—  
 Till the struggle is o'er, and the Charter won !

The time shall come when the artisan  
Shall homage no more the titled man—  
When the moiling men who delve the mine  
By Mammon's decree no more shall pine.

Toil, brothers, toil, till the work is done—  
Till the struggle is o'er, and the Charter won !

The time shall come when the weavers' band  
Shall hunger no more in their fatherland—  
When the factory-child can sleep till day,  
And smile while it dreams of sport and play.

Toil, brothers, toil, till the work is done—  
Till the struggle is o'er, and the Charter won !

The time shall come when Man shall hold  
His brother more dear than sordid gold—  
When the Negro's stain his freeborn mind  
Shall sever no more from human-kind.

Toil, brothers, toil, till the world is free—  
Till Justice and Love hold jubilee !

The time shall come when kingly crown  
And mitre for toys of the Past are shown—  
When the Fierce and False alike shall fall,  
And Mercy and Truth encircle all.

Toil, brothers, toil, till the world is free—  
Till Mercy and Truth hold jubilee !

The time shall come when earth shall be  
A garden of joy, from sea to sea,  
When the slaughterous sword is drawn no more,  
And goodness exults from shore to shore.

Toil, brothers, toil, till the world is free,—  
Till goodness shall hold high jubilee !

## CHARTIST CHAUNT.

TRUTH is growing—hearts are glowing  
With the flame of Liberty:  
Light is breaking—Thrones are quaking—  
Hark!—the trumpet of the Free!  
Long, in lowly whispers breathing,  
Freedom wandered drearily—  
Still, in faith, her laurel wreathing  
For the day when there should be  
Freemen shouting—“Victory!”

Now, she seeketh him that speaketh  
Fearlessly of lawless might;  
And she speedeth him that leadeth  
Brethren on to win the Right.  
Soon, the slave shall cease to sorrow—  
Cease to toil in agony;  
Yea, the cry may swell to-morrow  
Over land and over sea—  
“Brethren, shout—ye all are free!”

Freedom bringeth joy that singeth  
All day long and never tires:  
No more sadness—all is gladness  
In the heart that she inspires:  
For she breathes a soft compassion  
Where the tyrant kindled rage;  
And she saith to every nation—  
“Brethren, cease wild war to wage:  
Earth is your blest heritage.”

Though kings render their defender  
Titles, gold, and splendours gay—  
Lo, thy glory, warrior gory,  
Like a dream shall fade away !  
Gentle Peace her balm of healing  
On the bleeding world shall pour;  
Brethren, love for brethren feeling,  
Shall proclaim, from shore to shore,  
“ Shout—the sword shall slay no more ! ”

*J. A. LEATHERLAND.*

Born 1812.

[In youth a factory hand ; afterwards a lecturer and verse-writer. The following song was published in the Chartist Hymn-book, and is said to have been sung at mass meetings.]

## SONG.

BASE Oppressors, leave your slumbers,  
Listen to a nation's cry ;  
Hark ! united, countless numbers,  
Swell the peal of agony !  
Lo ! from Britain's sons and daughters,  
In the depths of misery—  
Like the sound of many waters—  
Comes the cry “ we will be free ! ”

Tyrants quail ! the dawn is breaking—  
Dawn of Freedom's glorious day ;  
Despots on their thrones are quaking,  
Iron bands are giving way ;  
Kingcraft, priestcraft, black oppression,  
Cannot bear our scrutiny ;  
We have learnt this startling lesson—  
“ If we will, we may be free ! ”

By our own, our children's charter ;  
    By the blood that fires our veins ;  
By each truth-attesting martyr,  
    By their tears, and groans, and pains ;  
By our rights, by nature given ;  
    By the voice of Liberty ;  
We proclaim before high heaven,  
    That we must, we will be free !

Winds and waves the tidings carry ;  
    Spirits, in your stormy car,  
Wing'd with lightnings, do not tarry ;—  
    Bear the news to lands afar !  
Tell them—sound the thrilling story,  
    Louder than the thunder's glee—  
That a people, ripe for glory,  
    Is determined to be free.

*CHARLES MACKAY.*

1814—1889.

[A well-known journalist and miscellaneous writer. Author of "Voices from the Crowd," 1846.]

## CLEAR THE WAY.

MEN of thought ! be up and stirring  
    Night and day :  
Sow the seed, withdraw the curtain,  
    Clear the way !

Men of action, aid and cheer them,  
    As ye may !  
There's a fount about to stream,  
There's a light about to beam,  
There's a warmth about to glow,  
There's a flower about to blow ;  
There's a midnight blackness changing  
    Into grey !  
Men of thought and men of action,  
    Clear the way !

Once the welcome light has broken,  
    Who shall say  
What the unimagined glories  
    Of the day ?

What the evil that shall perish  
In its ray ?  
Aid the dawning, tongue and pen ;  
Aid it, hopes of honest men ;  
Aid it, paper, aid it type,  
Aid it, for the hour is ripe ;  
And our earnest must not slacken  
Into play.  
Men of thought and men of action,  
Clear the way.

Lo ! a cloud's about to vanish  
From the day ;  
And a brazen wrong to crumble  
Into clay.  
Lo ! the Right's about to conquer,  
Clear the way !

With the Right shall many more  
Enter smiling at the door ;  
With the giant Wrong shall fall  
Many others great and small,  
That for ages long have held us  
For their prey.  
Men of thought and men of action,  
Clear the way !

*JOHN JEFFREY.*

Born 1849.

[Author of "Lays of the Revolutions."]

### THE EMANCIPATION OF THE PRESS.

Ho ! ye watchmen of our Europe through the night of  
ages drear,  
See ye in the East the first faint flush that tells the night  
is near,—  
Worn and ghastly with your vigils till the crimson Dawn  
be born,  
Springing, like a flame-crowned Titan, from the moun-  
tains of the morn ?

Ay ! "a light ! a light !" the watchers shout, its radiance  
comes at last,—  
Long the spell-bound world slept girdled with the black-  
ness thick and vast;  
But the shadows die in purple, and the purple dies in  
day,  
And the high peaks of the orient hills smite back the  
conquering ray.

It has shone in golden Tuscany,—the chains are shivered  
there;  
And the priest-rid Romans start to life from their lethargic  
lair;  
And the light assumed a fierier tinge, and more triumphant  
flushed,  
When it hung o'er giant Austria as grey Metternich was  
crushed.

It has gleamed on Naples' blood-drenched streets,—its  
torch-like banners shine  
All along the track of cities mirrored in the sapphire  
Rhine;  
From the Baltic's booming breakers to the tideless inland  
sea  
That lisps cradle-songs on southern shores, the rays flash  
fast and free.

But the glorious light still glances, while the Revolution's  
surge  
Bears in like the stormy petrel on the billow's topmost  
verge;  
And, inspired by its rays, the new-born nations shout in  
glee,—  
“Down for ever with the censorship; the Press, the  
Press, is free !”

*CHARLES KINGSLEY.*

1819—1875.

*ALTON LOCKE'S SONG,*  
1848.

WEEP, weep, weep, and weep  
For pauper, dolt, and slave !  
Hark ! from wasted moor and fen,  
Feverous alley, stifling den,  
Swells the wail of Saxon men—  
Work ! or the grave !

Down, down, down, and down  
With idler, knave, and tyrant !  
Why for sluggards cark and moil ?  
He that will not live by toil  
Has no right on English soil !  
God's word's our warrant.

Up, up, up, and up !  
Face your game and play it !  
The night is past, behold the sun !  
The idols fall, the lie is done !  
The Judge is set, the doom begun !  
Who shall stay it ?

## THE DAY OF THE LORD.

THE Day of the Lord is at hand, at hand :  
Its storms roll up the sky :  
The nations sleep starving on heaps of gold ;  
All dreamers toss and sigh ;  
The night is darkest before the morn ;  
When the pain is sorest the child is born,  
And the Day of the Lord at hand.

Gather you, gather you, angels of God—  
Freedom, and Mercy, and Truth ;  
Come ! for the Earth is grown coward and old,  
Come down, and renew us her youth.  
Wisdom, Self-Sacrifice, Daring, and Love,  
Haste to the battle-field, stoop from above,  
To the Day of the Lord at hand.

Gather you, gather you, hounds of hell—  
Famine, and Plague, and War ;  
Idleness, Bigotry, Cant, and Misrule,  
Gather, and fall in the snare !  
Hireling and Mammonite, Bigot and Knave,  
Crawl to the battle-field, sneak to your grave,  
In the Day of the Lord at hand.

Who would sit down and sigh for a lost age of gold,  
While the Lord of all ages is here ?  
True hearts will leap up at the trumpet of God,  
And those who can suffer, can dare.  
Each old age of gold was an iron age too,  
And the meekest of saints may find stern work to do,  
In the Day of the Lord at hand.

## ON THE DEATH OF A CERTAIN JOURNAL.

So die, thou child of stormy dawn,  
Thou winter flower, forlorn of nurse;  
Chilled early by the bigot's curse,  
The pedant's frown, the worldling's yawn.

Fair death, to fall in teeming June,  
When every seed which drops to earth  
Takes root, and wins a second birth  
From steaming shower and gleaming moon.

Fall warm, fall fast, thou mellow rain ;  
Thou rain of God, make fat the land ;  
That roots which parch in burning sand  
May bud to flower and fruit again.

To grace, perchance, a fairer morn  
In mightier lands beyond the sea,  
While honour falls to such as we  
From hearts of heroes yet unborn.

Who in the light of fuller day,  
Of purer science, holier laws,  
Bless us, faint heralds of their cause,  
Dim beacons of their glorious way.

Failure ? While tide-floods rise and boil  
Round cape and isle, in port and cove,  
Resistless, star-led from above :  
What though our tiny wave recoil ?

*ERNEST JONES.*

1819—1868.

[The famous Chartist leader and poet. He was sentenced in 1848 to two years' imprisonment.]

## SONG OF THE “LOWER CLASSES.”

WE plow and sow, we're so very very low,  
That we delve in the dirty clay ;  
Till we bless the plain with the golden grain,  
And the vale with the fragrant hay.  
Our place we know, we're so very very low,  
'Tis down at the landlord's feet :  
We're not too low the grain to grow,  
But too low the bread to eat.

Down, down we go, we're so very very low,  
To the hell of the deep-sunk mines ;  
But we gather the proudest gems that glow,  
When the crown of the despot shines ;  
And whene'er he lacks, upon our backs  
Fresh loads he deigns to lay ;  
We're far too low to vote the tax,  
But not too low to pay.

We're low, we're low—we're very very low,—  
And yet from our fingers glide  
The silken flow and the robes that glow  
Round the limbs of the sons of pride ;

And what we get, and what we give,  
 We know, and we know our share ;  
 We're not too low the cloth to weave,  
 But too low the cloth to wear.

We're low, we're low, we're very very low,  
 And yet when the trumpets ring,  
 The thrust of a poor man's arm will go  
 Through the heart of the proudest king.  
 We're low, we're low—mere rabble, we know—  
 We're only the rank and the file ;  
 We're not too low to kill the foe,  
 But too low to share the spoil.

---

### LIBERTY.

THY birthplace—where, young Liberty ?  
 In graves, 'mid heroes' ashes.  
 Thy dwelling—where, sweet Liberty ?  
 In hearts, where free blood dashes.

Thy best hope—where, dear Liberty ?  
 In fast upwinging time.  
 Thy first strength—where, proud Liberty ?  
 In thine oppressor's crime.

Thy safety—where, stray Liberty ?  
 In lands where discord cease.  
 Thy glory—where, bright Liberty ?  
 In universal Peace.

## HYMN FOR LAMMAS-DAY.

SHARPEN the sickle ; the fields are white ;  
'Tis the time of the harvest at last.  
Reapers, be up with the morning light,  
Ere the blush of its youth be past.  
Why stand on the highway and lounge at the gate,  
With a summer day's work to perform ?  
If you wait for the hiring 'tis long you may wait—  
Till the hour of the night and the storm.

Sharpen the sickle ; how proud they stand  
In the pomp of their golden grain !  
But I'm thinking, ere noon 'neath the sweep of my  
hand,  
How many will lie on the plain !  
Though the ditch be wide, the fence be high,  
There's a spirit to carry us o'er :  
For God never meant his people to die  
In sight of so rich a store.

Sharpen the sickle ; how full the ears !  
Our children are crying for bread ;  
And the field has been watered with orphans' tears  
And enriched with their fathers' dead ;  
And hopes that are buried, and hearts that broke,  
Lie deep in the treasuring sod :  
Then sweep down the grain with a thunderstroke,  
In the name of humanity's God !

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## THE SONG OF THE WAGE-SLAVE.

THE land it is the landlord's,  
The trader's is the sea,  
The ore the usurer's coffer fills—  
But what remains for me?  
The engine whirls for master's craft;  
The steel shines to defend,  
With labour's arms, what labour raised,  
For labour's foe to spend.  
The camp, the pulpit, and the law  
For rich men's sons are free;  
Theirs, theirs the learning, art, and arms—  
But what remains for me?  
The coming hope, the future day,  
When wrong to right shall bow,  
And hearts that have the courage, man,  
To make that future *now*.

I pay for all their learning,  
I toil for all their ease;  
They render back, in coin for coin,  
Want, ignorance, disease:  
Toil, toil—and then a cheerless home,  
Where hungry passions cross;  
Eternal gain to them that give  
To me eternal loss!  
The hour of leisured happiness  
The rich alone may see;  
The playful child, the smiling wife—  
But what remains for me?

They render back, those rich men,  
A pauper's niggard fee,  
Mayhap a prison,—then a grave,  
And think they're quits with me;  
But not a fond wife's heart that breaks,  
A poor man's child that dies,  
We score not on our hollow cheeks  
And in our sunken eyes;  
We read it there, where'er we meet,  
And as the sum we see,  
Each asks, "The rich have got the earth,  
And what remains for me?"

We bear the wrong in silence,  
We store it in our brain;  
They think us dull, they think us dead,  
But we shall rise again:  
A trumpet through the lands will ring;  
A heaving through the mass;  
A trampling through their palaces  
Until they break like glass:  
We'll cease to weep by cherished graves,  
From lonely homes we'll flee;  
And still, as rolls our million march,  
Its watchword brave shall be—  
The coming hope, the future day,  
When wrong to right shall bow,  
And hearts that have the courage, man,  
To make the future *now*.

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## PRISON FANCIES.

COMPOSED WHEN CONFINED IN A SOLITARY CELL,  
ON BREAD AND WATER, WITHOUT BOOKS OR WRITING  
MATERIALS, MAY 1849.

TROUBLESOME fancies beset me  
Sometimes as I sit in my cell,  
That comrades and friends may forget me,  
And foes may remember too well.

That plans which I thought well digested  
May prove to be bubbles of air;  
And hopes when they come to be tested  
May turn to the seed of despair.

But tho' I may doubt all beside me,  
And anchor and cable may part,  
Whatever—whatever betide me,  
Forbid me to doubt my own heart!

For sickness may wreck a brave spirit,  
And time wear the brain to a shade;  
And dastardly age disinherit  
Creations that manhood has made.

But, God! let me ne'er cease to cherish  
The truths I so fondly have held!  
Far sooner, at once let me perish,  
Ere firmness and courage are quelled.

Tho' my head in the dust may be lying,  
And bad men exult o'er my fall,  
I shall smile at them—smile at them, dying:  
The Right is the Right, after all!

---

## EASTER HYMN.

CRUCIFIED, crucified every morn;  
Beaten and scourged, and crowned with thorn;  
Scorned and spat on, and drenched with gall;  
Brothers! how long shall we bear their thrall?

CHORUS—Mary and Magdalen, Peter and John,  
Hear ye the question—and bear it on.

Earthquake revelled, and darkness fell,  
To shew 'twas the time of the Kings of Hell!  
But the veil is rent they hung so high  
To hide their sins from the People's eye.

CHORUS—Mary and Magdalen, Peter and John,  
Hear ye the tidings, and bear them on.

Like royal robes on the King of Jews,  
We're mocked with rights that we may not use,—  
'Tis the people so long have been crucified,  
But the thieves are still wanting on either side.

CHORUS—Mary and Magdalen, Peter and John,  
Swell the sad burden, and bear it on.

Blood and water! ay, blood and tears!  
Track our path down the stream of years;  
Our limbs they spare—our hearts they break:  
For they need the former their gold to make.

CHORUS—Mary and Magdalén, Peter and John,  
Hear ye the warning, and bear it on.

A Sabbath shall come, but not of rest !  
When the rich shall be punished—the poor redressed;  
And from hamlet to hamlet, from town to town,  
The church bells shall ring till the proud fall down.

CHORUS—Mary and Magdalén, Peter and John,  
Give ye the signal, and bear it on.

The Pharisees revel o'er manor and loom:  
We'll blow them a blast on the trump of doom;  
It shall raise the dead nations from land to land;  
For the resurrection is nigh at hand !

CHORUS—Mary and Magdalén, Peter and John,  
Hear the glad tidings, and bear them on.

EASTER, 1850.

*GERALD MASSEY.*

Born 1828.

[Member of the Christian Socialist party of 1850. His "Cries of 'Forty-Eight" appeared in the same year.]

## THE PEOPLE'S ADVENT.

'Tis coming up the steep of Time,  
And this old world is growing brighter ;  
We may not see its Dawn sublime,  
Yet high hopes make the heart throb lighter.  
Our dust may slumber under-ground  
When it awakes the world in wonder ;  
But we have felt it gathering round,—  
We have heard its voice of distant thunder.  
'Tis coming ! yes, 'tis coming !

'Tis coming now, that glorious time,  
Foretold by seers and sung in story,  
For which, when thinking was a crime,  
Souls leaped to heaven from scaffolds gory.  
They passed. But lo ! the work they have wrought,  
Now the crowned hopes of centuries blossom !  
The lightning of their living thought  
Is flashing through us, brain and bosom :  
'Tis coming ! yes, 'tis coming !

Creeds, empires, systems, rot with age,  
 But the great People's ever youthful ;  
 And it shall write the Future's page  
 To our Humanity more truthful ;  
 The gnarliest heart hath tender chords  
 To waken at the name of " Brother " :  
 'Tis coming when these scorpion-words  
 We shall not speak to sting each other.  
 'Tis coming ! yes, 'tis coming.

Out of the light, you Priests, nor fling  
 Your dark, cold shadows on us longer.  
 Aside, thou world-wide curse, called King ;  
 The People's step is quicker, stronger.  
 There's a divinity within  
 That makes men great if they but will it ;  
 God works with all who dare to win,  
 And the time cometh to reveal it.  
 'Tis coming ! yes, 'tis coming !

Freedom ! the despots kill thy braves,  
 Yet in our memories live the sleepers ;  
 And, though doomed millions feed the graves  
 Dug by death's fierce, red-handed reapers,  
 The world will not forever bow  
 To things that mock God's own endeavour.  
 'Tis nearer than they wot of now,  
 When flowers shall wreath their sword for ever—  
 'Tis coming ! yes, 'tis coming !

Fraternity, love's other name,  
 Dear, heaven-connected link of being ;  
 Then shall we grasp thy golden dream,  
 As souls, full-statured, grow far-seeing :

Thou shalt unfold our better part,  
And in our life-cup yield more honey ;  
Light up with joy the Poor Man's heart,  
And Love's own world with smiles more sunny.  
'Tis coming ! yes, 'tis coming !

Ay, it must come ! The tyrant's throne  
Is crumbling, with our hot tears rusted ;  
The sword earth's mighty have leant on  
Is cankered, with our best blood crusted.  
Room for the men of mind ! Make way  
You robber rulers,—pause no longer :  
You cannot stay the opening day !  
The world rolls on, the light grows stronger—  
The People's Advent's coming !

---

## TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW.

HIGH hopes that burned like stars sublime  
Go down i' the Heaven of Freedom,  
And true hearts perish in the time  
We bitterliest need 'em ;  
But never sit we down and say  
There's nothing left but sorrow ;  
We walk the Wilderness To-day,  
The Promised Land To-morrow.

Our birds of song are silent now ;  
Few are the flowers blooming ;  
Yet life is in the frozen bough,  
And Freedom's Spring is coming ;

And Freedom's tide creeps up alway,  
 Though we may strand in sorrow ;  
 And our good Bark, a-ground To-day,  
 Shall float again To-morrow.

'Tis weary watching wave by wave,  
 And yet the tide heaves onward ;  
 We climb, like corals, grave by grave,  
 That pave a pathway sunward ;  
 We are driven back, for our next fray  
 A newer strength to borrow,  
 And where the Vanguard camps To-day,  
 The Rear shall rest To-morrow.

Through all the long, dark night of years  
 The people's cry ascendeth,  
 And earth is wet with blood and tears,  
 But our meek sufferance endeth.  
 The few shall not for ever sway,  
 The many moil in sorrow ;  
 The Powers of Hell are strong To-day ;  
 Our Kingdom come To-morrow.

Though hearts brood o'er the Past, our eyes  
 With smiling Futures glisten ;  
 For, lo ! our day bursts up the skies,  
 Lean out your souls and listen.  
 The world is rolling Freedom's way,  
 And ripening with her sorrow :  
 Take heart ; who bear the Cross To-day  
 Shall wear the crown To-morrow.

Oh, Youth ! flame-earnest, still aspire,  
With energies immortal;  
To many a heaven of desire  
Our yearning opes a portal.  
And though Age wearies by the way,  
And hearts break in the furrow,  
Youth sows the golden grain To-day,  
The Harvest comes To-morrow.

Build up heroic lives, and all  
Be like a sheathen sabre,  
Ready to flash out at God's call,  
O Chivalry of Labour !  
Triumph and Toil are twins, though they  
Be singly born in Sorrow ;  
And 'tis the Martyrdom To-day  
Brings victory To-morrow.

---

## SONG OF THE RED REPUBLICAN.

FLING out the red Banner ! its fiery front under,  
Come, gather ye, gather ye, Champions of Right,  
And roll round the world, with the voice of God's  
thunder,  
The Wrongs we've to reckon, Oppressions to smite.  
They think that we strike no more like the old Hero-band,  
Victory's own battle-hearted and brave:  
Once more, brothers mine, it were sweet but to see ye  
stand,  
Triumph or Tomb welcome, Glory or Grave !

Fling out the red Banner ! in mountain and valley  
 Let Earth feel the tread of the Free once again ;  
 Now soldiers of Liberty make one more rally,  
 Old Earth yearns to know that her children are Men.  
 We are nerved by a thousand wrongs, burning and  
 bleeding ;  
 Bold Thoughts leap to birth, but the bold Deeds must  
 come ;  
 And wherever Humanity's yearning and pleading,  
 One battle for Liberty strike we heart-home.

Fling out the red Banner ! achievements immortal  
 Have yet to be won by the hands labour-brown ;  
 Though few of us enter the proud promise-portal,  
 Yet wear it in thought like a glorious Crown !  
 O joy of the onset ! sound trumpet ! array us ;  
 True hearts would leap up were all hell in our path ;  
 Up, up from the slave-land ; who stirreth to stay us,  
 Shall fall, as of old, in a Red Sea of wrath.

Fling out the red Banner, O Sons of the morning !  
 Young spirits awaiting to burst into wings,—  
 We stand shadow-crowned, but sublime is the warning,  
 All heaven's grimly hushed, and the Bird of Storm sings.  
 "All's well," saith the Sentry on Tyranny's tower,  
 While Hope by his watch-fire is grey and tear-blind ;  
 Ay, all's well ! Freedom's Altar burns, hour by hour,  
 Live brands for the fire-damp with which ye are mined.

Fling out the red Banner ! the Patriots perish,  
 But where their bones whiten the seed striketh root :  
 Their blood hath run red the great harvest to cherish :  
 Now gather ye, Reapers, and garner the fruit.

Victory ! victory ! Tyrants are quaking !  
The Titan of Toil from the bloody thrall starts ;  
The Slaves are awaking, the dawn-light is breaking,  
The footfall of Freedom beats quick at our hearts !

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### THE MEN OF 'FORTY-EIGHT.

THEY rose in Freedom's rare sunrise,  
Like Giants roused from wine ;  
And in their hearts and in their eyes  
The God leaped up divine !  
Their souls flashed out, naked as swords  
Unsheathed for fiery fate :  
Strength went like battle with their words—  
The men of 'Forty-eight,  
                Hurrah  
For the men of 'Forty-eight.

The Kings have got their Crown again,  
And blood-red revel cup ;  
They've bound the Titan down again,  
And heaped his grave-mound up.  
But still he lives, though buried 'neath  
The mountain,—lies in wait,  
Heart-stifled heaves and tries to breathe  
The breath of 'Forty-eight.  
                Hurrah  
For the men of 'Forty-eight.

Dark days have fallen, yet in the strife  
    We bate no hope sublime,  
And bravely works the exultant life,  
    Their hearts pulsed through the time:  
As grass is greenest trodden down,  
    Their suffering makes men great,  
And this dark tide shall richly crown  
    The work of 'Forty-eight.  
                Hurrah  
For the men of 'Forty-eight.

Some in a bloody burial sleep,  
    Like Greeks to glory gone,  
But in their steps avengers leap  
    With their proof-armour on:  
And hearts beat high with dauntless trust  
    To triumph soon or late,  
Though they be mouldering down in dust—  
    The men of 'Forty-eight !  
                Hurrah  
For the men of 'Forty-eight.

O when the World wakes up to worst  
    The Tyrants once again,  
And Freedom's summons-shout shall burst,  
    Rare music ! on the brain,—  
Old Truehearts still, in many a land,  
    You will find them all elate—  
Brave remnant of that Spartan-band,  
    The men of 'Forty-eight.  
                Hurrah  
For the men of 'Forty-eight.

## THE EARTH FOR ALL.

THUS saith the Lord : You weary me  
With prayers, and waste your own short years !  
Eternal Truth you cannot see  
Who weep, and shed your sight in tears.  
In vain you wait and watch the skies,  
No better fortune thus will fall :  
Up from your knees I bid you rise,  
And claim the Earth for A'

They ate up Earth, and promised you  
The Heaven of an empty shell.  
'Twas theirs to say; 'twas yours to do,  
On pain of everlasting Hell.  
They rob and leave you helplessly  
For help of Heaven to cry and call :  
Heaven did not make your misery;  
The Earth was given for All.

Behold in bonds your Mother Earth ;  
The rich man's prostitute and slave,  
Your Mother Earth, that gave you birth,  
You only own her for a grave.  
And will you die like Slaves, and see  
Your Mother left a fettered thrall ?  
Nay, live like Men, and set her free  
As Heritage for All.

*MARY HOWITT.*

1799—1888.

[“Ballads and other Poems,” 1847.]

## THE RICH AND THE POOR.

THEY told me, when I was a child,  
I was of English birth ;  
They called a free-born Englishman  
The noblest man on earth.

I thought all rich men good, the poor  
Content with life’s award ;  
I thought each church throughout the land  
A temple of the Lord.

I saw the high-born and the poor  
Low-bending side by side,  
And the meek bishop’s holy hands  
Diffuse a blessing wide :

And round and round the sacred pile  
My reverent fancy went,  
Till God and good King George at once  
Within my heart were blent.

These were my days of innocence,  
    Of ignorance and mirth ;  
When my wild heart leapt up in joy  
    Of my pure English birth.

Oh ! England, mother England,  
    Proud nurse of thriving men,  
I've learned to look on many things  
    With other eyes since then !

I've learnéd divers lessons ;  
    Have seen and heard and thought ;  
And oftentimes the truest lore  
    By human woe was taught.

Proud was I, when I was a child,  
    To be of English birth ;  
For I surely thought the English-born  
    Had not a care on earth.

That was my creed when I was young,  
    It is my creed no more ;  
For I know, woe's me ! the difference now  
    Betwixt the rich and poor.

*THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK.*

1785—1866.

## RICH AND POOR: OR SAINT AND SINNER.

THE poor man's sins are glaring ;  
In the face of ghostly warning,  
He is caught in the fact  
Of an overt act—  
Buying greens on Sunday morning.

The rich man's sins are hidden  
In the pomp of wealth and station ;  
And escape the sight  
Of the children of light,  
Who are wise in their generation.

The rich man has a kitchen  
And cooks to dress his dinner ;  
The poor who would roast  
To the baker's must post,  
And thus becomes a sinner.

The rich man has a cellar,  
And a butler ready by him ;  
The poor must steer  
For his pint of beer  
Where the saint can't choose but spy him.

The rich man's painted windows  
Hide the concerts of the quality ;  
    The poor can but share  
        A crack'd fiddle in the air,  
Which offends all sound morality.

The rich man is invisible  
In the crowd of his gay society ;  
    But the poor man's delight  
        Is a sore in the sight,  
And a stench in the nose of piety.

The rich man has a carriage  
Where no rude eye can flout him ;  
    The poor man's bane  
        Is a third-class train,  
With the daylight all about him.

The rich man goes out yachting,  
Where sanctity can't pursue him ;  
    The poor goes afloat  
        In a fourpenny boat,  
Where the bishop groans to view him.

*ROBERT BARNABAS BROUGH.*

1828—1860.

[A London journalist and playwright. His satirical "Songs of the Governing Classes" appeared in 1859.]

## MY LORD TOMNODDY.

My Lord Tomnoddy's the son of an Earl,  
His hair is straight, but his whiskers curl ;  
His Lordship's forehead is far from wide,  
But there's plenty of room for the brains inside.  
He writes his name with indifferent ease,  
He's rather uncertain about the "d's,"—  
But what does it matter, if three or one,  
To the Earl of Fitzdotterel's eldest son ?

My Lord Tomnoddy to college went,  
Much time he lost, much money he spent ;  
Rules, and windows, and heads, he broke—  
Authorities wink'd—young men will joke !  
He never peep'd inside of a book—  
In two years' time a degree he took ;  
And the newspapers vaunted the honours won  
By the Earl of Fitzdotterel's eldest son.

My Lord Tomnoddy came out in the world,  
Waists were tighten'd, and ringlets curl'd.  
Virgins languish'd, and matrons smil'd—  
'Tis true, his Lordship is rather wild ;

In very queer places he spends his life ;  
There's talk of some children, by nobody's wife—  
But we mustn't look close into what is done  
By the Earl of Fitzdotterel's eldest son.

My Lord Tomnoddy must settle down—  
There's a vacant seat in the family town !  
('Tis time he should sow his eccentric oats)—  
He hasn't the wit to apply for votes :  
He cannot e'en learn his election speech,  
Three phrases he speaks—a mistake in each !  
And then breaks down—but the borough is won  
For the Earl of Fitzdotterel's eldest son.

My Lord Tomnoddy prefers the Guards,  
(The House is a bore) so !—it's on the cards !  
My Lord's a Lieutenant at twenty-three,  
A Captain at twenty-six is he—  
He never drew sword, except on drill ;  
The tricks of parade he has learnt but ill—  
A full-blown Colonel at thirty-one  
Is the Earl of Fitzdotterel's eldest son !

My Lord Tomnoddy is thirty-four ;  
The Earl can last but a few years more.  
My Lord in the Peers will take his place :  
Her Majesty's councils his words will grace.  
Office he'll hold, and patronage sway ;  
Fortunes and lives he will vote away—  
And what are his qualifications ?—ONE !  
He's the Earl of Fitzdotterel's eldest son.

**"A GENTLEMAN."**

THERE is a word in the English tongue,  
Where I'd rather it were not,  
For shams and lies from it have sprung,  
And heartburns fierce and hot.  
'Tis a tawdry cloak for a dirty soul—  
'Tis a sanctuary base,  
Where the fool and the knave themselves may save  
From justice and disgrace.  
'Tis a curse to the land—deny it who can ?  
That self-same boast, "I'm a gentleman!"

It means (if a meaning definite  
Can be fix'd to the thing at all)  
A well-cut coat, a faultless boot,  
A hand that's white and small;  
A head well-brush'd, and a shirt well-wash'd,  
A lazy heartless stare;  
Some sterling pounds, or a name that sounds  
With the true patrician air.  
These are all you want—deny it who can ?  
To attain the rank of a gentleman !

But with those claims you may take your ease,  
And lounge your long life through,  
Without straining a muscle, a nerve, or a thought,  
For the world will work for you.

You may be a dolt, or a brute, or a rogue  
(In a gentlemanly way),  
You may drink, you may bet, you may run in debt,  
And never need wish to pay.  
There's an amnesty given—deny it who can?  
For all the sins of "a gentleman!"

You may leave your wife, with her children six,  
In a ditch to starve and pine,  
And another man's take, in a palace rich,  
With jewels and gold to shine.  
You may flog your horse or your dog to death—  
You may shoot it, in a fit of rage,  
A helpless groom—and an easy doom  
You'll meet from the jury sage,  
" There's been provocation—deny it who can?  
For we see at a glance he's a gentleman!"

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## THE STRAWBERRY LEAF.\*

OH, a dainty plant is the strawberry leaf,  
He groweth from ruins old:  
Of right choice food he must pick the chief,  
In his cell so lone and cold.

\* An allusion to the ornament of the ducal coronet.

The land must be fertile, and rich the glade,  
To pleasure his dainty whim;  
And triumphs of art, that years have made,  
Must be kept aside for him,  
Eating all, to the nation's grief,  
A hungry plant is the strawberry leaf.

Sure he creepeth on (for he wears no wings,  
But a slow old coach is he);  
How quickly he findeth, how tightly he clings  
To good things, wherever they be.  
And spreading his tendrils along the ground,  
Each labouring foot he enslaves,  
And joyously hugs, as he thrives around,  
The mould of dead warriors' graves.  
Flourishing on, amidst death and grief,  
A poisonous plant is the strawberry leaf.

But a garden fair to be overrun  
With a noxious troublesome weed,  
Is a sign of the gardener's work ill done,  
And must remedied be with speed.  
So, torn by the roots from each bed and tree,  
And into the bonfire cast,  
To blaze on the dunghill, perchance, may be  
The strawberry's fate at last.  
Burnt like straw, in a piled-up sheaf,  
We'll hail the smoke from the strawberry leaf

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**“VULGAR DECLAMATION.”****A LESSON FOR THE YOUNG.**

“ But, Sir, I do protest against the language we have heard this evening from the Hon. Member, who has thought proper to mingle with his observations and comments a deal of what I must call vulgar declamation against the aristocracy of this country.”—**LORD PALMERSTON.**

MY son, if Fate in store for you  
Should have the wond’rous bounty,  
To let you live to represent  
A borough or a county—  
I’d have you do your duty well,  
According to your station,  
And guard, o’er all, against the use  
Of **VULGAR DECLAMATION.**

I hope you’ll never tell the House  
That all men’s rights are equal—  
That woe to Nations still must be  
Of Monarchs’ Wars the sequel;  
Or that a pauper can be found  
In all the British nation:  
For if you do, you’ll be accused  
Of **VULGAR DECLAMATION.**

Avoid allusions to the Church,  
Except, indeed, to praise it;  
Don’t rail against a Bishop’s pay,  
But give your vote to raise it;

Don't say that forty pounds a year  
Is scant remuneration  
For working clergymen, because  
That's VULGAR DECLAMATION.

The Prince of Wales is just your age,  
Together you will grow up;  
He'll soon want money and a wife,  
Don't—when the time comes—blow up  
His marriage grant, however great,  
Or heavy on the nation—  
That stinting princes is the worst  
Of VULGAR DECLAMATION.

And then when common soldiers claim  
Their share of wealth and glory,  
And grudge the lions all the prize,  
Don't *you* take up the story.  
And as for giving working men  
Ideas above their station,  
'Tis positively wrong, as well  
As VULGAR DECLAMATION.

And, lastly—if some noble name  
Should get by chance mix'd up in  
Some awkward case of "starved to death,"  
Or arsenic, a cup in,  
Just hush it up, and hope, at least,  
There's some exaggeration;  
But don't, for Heaven's sake, indulge  
In VULGAR DECLAMATION.

*WILLIAM JAMES LINTON.*

Born 1812.

[Chartist poet ; friend and fellow-worker of Mazzini ; has lived in America since 1867. Many of his contributions to the *English Republic* were written under the *nom de plume* of "Spartacus."]

## THE HAPPY LAND.

THE Happy Land !

Studded with cheerful homesteads, fair to see,  
With garden grace and household symmetry :  
How grand the wide-brow'd peasant's lordly mien,  
The matron's smile serene !

O happy, happy Land !

The Happy Land !

Half-hid in the dewy grass the mower blithe  
Sings to the day-star as he whets his scythe;  
And to his babes at eventide again  
Carols as blithe a strain.

O happy, happy Land !

The Happy Land !

Where in the golden sheen of autumn eves  
The bright-hair'd children play among the sheaves;  
Or gather ripest apples all the day,  
As ruddy-cheek'd as they.

O happy, happy Land !

O Happy Land !

The thin smoke curleth through the frosty air ;  
The light smiles from the windows : hearken there  
To the white grandsire's tale of heroes old,  
To flame-eyed listeners told.

O happy, happy Land !

O Happy, Happy Land !

The tender-foliaged alders scarcely shade  
Yon loitering lover and glad blushing maid.  
O happy Land ! the spring that quickens thee  
Is human liberty.

O happy, happy Land !

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### THE COMING DAY.

THE day when we are freemen all, whenever that shall  
be,

Will surely be the worthiest that earth can ever see :  
When man unto his fellow-man, whatever may befall,  
Holds out the palm of fellowship, and Love is lord of all :  
When man and woman hand in hand along life's path-  
way go,

And the days of human joy eclipse the sorrow long ago.

The day when we are freemen all, when equal rights  
and laws

Shall rule the commonwealth of earth, amid a world's  
applause ;

When equal rights and duties claim the equal care of all,  
And man as man beneath high heaven assumes his  
coronal ;  
When the Day of Pentecost is come, when the poor  
man's hearth shall be  
An altar for the beacon-fire of Peace and Liberty.

The day when we are freemen all, the day when  
thoughts are free  
To travel as the winds of heaven toward their destiny ;  
When man is sovereign of himself and to himself the  
priest,  
And crowned Wisdoms recognise the manhood of the  
least.  
Then God shall walk again with man, and fruitful con-  
verse grow  
As in the morn of Paradise a long time ago.

But holier still shall be the day when human hearts shall  
dare  
To kneel before one common Hope, the common toil to  
share,  
When Love shall throw his armour off, to wrestle with  
the Fear,  
The Selfishness which is the seal upon the sepulchre.  
Hark to the voices of the Years, the springtide of their  
glee,—  
Love hath o'ercome the prophecy ; Humanity is free.

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## PATIENCE.

[This poem, which first appeared in the *Irish Nation*, has been wrongly attributed, in some collections, to Archbishop Trench.]

BE patient, O be patient ! Put your ear against the earth ;  
Listen there how noiselessly the germ o' the seed has birth ;  
How noiselessly and gently it upheaves its little way  
Till it parts the scarcely-broken ground, and the blade stands up in the day !

Be patient, O be patient ! the germs of mighty thought  
Must have their silent undergrowth, must underground  
be wrought ;  
But, as sure as ever there's a Power that makes the grass appear,  
Our land shall be green with Liberty, the blade-time shall be here.

Be patient, O be patient ! go and watch the wheat-ears grow,  
So imperceptibly that ye can mark nor change nor thro'e:  
Day after day, day after day, till the ear is fully grown ;  
And then again day after day till the ripened field is brown.

Be patient, O be patient! though yet our hopes are  
green,  
The harvest-field of Freedom shall be crown'd with the  
sunny sheen;  
Be ripening ! be ripening ! mature your silent way  
Till the whole broad land is tongued with fire on Free-  
dom's harvest day !

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## THE TORCH-DANCE OF LIBERTY.

PASS the torch from hand to hand,  
                            Liberty ! Liberty !  
Pass the flame from land to land,  
                            Liberty ! Liberty !  
As wild sounds dance o'er the lyre,  
As the stars fulfil their choir,  
Tread we so our song of fire,  
                            Liberty ! Liberty !

Pass the flame from hand to hand,  
                            Liberty ! Liberty !  
Never let the flame-cup stand,  
                            Liberty ! Liberty !  
Pledge we Freedom, one and all,  
Each unto his fellow call,  
With pomp and frenzy bacchanal,  
                            Liberty ! Liberty !

Pass the flame from hand to hand,  
                            Liberty ! Liberty !  
Fire the thoughts of every land,  
                            Liberty ! Liberty !

Like a tempest-flag unfurling,  
Like a bark from harbour swirling,  
Sweeps the torch, forever whirling,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !

Pass like love from hand to hand,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !  
Touch the hearts of every land,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !  
Till the tonguèd flame eclipse  
The melody of clinging lips,  
Till the whirlwind it outstrips,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !

Pass the torch from hand to hand,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !  
Pass the flame from land to land,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !  
As an eagle sweepeth by,  
As the stars leap through the sky,  
Rusheth on our beacon-cry,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !

Speed the torch from hand to hand,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !  
Feed the fires of every land,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !  
Till no hearth uncheer'd shall be,  
Till on Love's broad altar we  
Lighten up Eternity,  
    Liberty ! Liberty !

## HEART AND WILL.

OUR England's heart is sound as oak;  
Our English will is firm;  
And through our actions Freedom spoke,  
In History's proudest term:  
When Blake was lord from shore to shore,  
And Cromwell ruled the land,  
And Milton's words were shields of power  
To stay the oppressor's hand.

Our England's heart is yet as sound,  
As firm our English will;  
And tyrants, be they cowl'd or crown'd,  
Shall find us fearless still.  
And though our Vane be in his tomb,  
Though Hampden's blood is cold,  
Their spirits live to lead our doom  
As in the days of old.

Our England's heart is stout as oak;  
Our English will as brave  
As when indignant Freedom spoke  
From Eliot's prison grave.  
And closing yet again with Wrong,  
A world in arms shall see  
Our England foremost of the Strong  
And first among the Free.

*WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.*

1775—1864.

## TYRANNICIDE.

DANGER is not in action, but in sloth;  
By sloth alone we lose  
Our strength, our substance, and, far more than both,  
The guerdon of the Muse.  
Men kill without compunction hawk and kite;  
To save the folded flock  
They chase the wily plunderer of the night  
O'er thicket, marsh, and rock.  
Sacred no longer is Our Lord the wolf  
Nor crown'd is crocodile:  
And shall ye worship on the Baltick Gulph  
The refuse of the Nile?  
Among the myriad men of murder'd sires  
Is there not one still left  
Whom wrongs and vengeance urge when virtue fires?  
One conscious how bereft  
Of all is he . . . of country, kindred, home . . .  
He, doom'd to drag along  
The dray of serfdom, or thro' lands to roam  
That mock an unknown tongue?  
A better faith was theirs than pulpits preach  
Who struck the tyrant down,  
Who taught the brave how patriot brands can reach  
And crush the proudest crown.

No law for him who stands above the law,  
Trampling on truth and trust;  
But hangman's hook or courtier's privy paw  
Shall drag him thro' the dust.  
Most dear of all the Virtues to her Sire  
Is Justice; and most dear  
To Justice is Tyrannicide; the fire  
That guides her flashes near.  
See o'er the desert God's red pillar tower!  
Follow, ye Nations! raise  
The hymn to God! To God alone be power  
And majesty and praise!

*ROBERT BROWNING.*

1812—1891.

## THE LOST LEADER.

JUST for a handful of silver he left us,  
Just for a riband to stick in his coat—  
Found the one gift of which fortune bereft us,  
Lost all the others she lets us devote;  
They, with the gold to give, doled him out silver,  
So much was theirs who so little allowed :  
How all our copper had gone for his service !  
Rags—were they purple, his heart had been proud !  
We that had loved him so, followed him, honoured him,  
Lived in his mild and magnificent eye,  
Learned his great language, caught his clear accents,  
Made him our pattern to live and to die !  
Shakespeare was of us, Milton was for us,  
Burns, Shelley, were with us,—they watch from their  
graves !  
He alone breaks from the van and the freemen,  
He alone sinks to the rear and the slaves !

We shall march prospering,—not thro' his presence ;  
Songs may inspirit us,—not from his lyre ;  
Deeds will be done,—while he boasts his quiescence,  
Still bidding crouch whom the rest bade aspire :

Blot out his name, then, record one lost soul more,  
One task more declined, one more footpath untrod,  
One more devil's-triumph and sorrow for angels,  
One wrong more to man, one more insult to God !  
Life's night begins: let him never come back to us !  
There would be doubt, hesitation and pain,  
Forced praise on our part—the glimmer of twilight,  
Never glad confident morning again !  
Best fight on well, for we taught him—strike gallantly,  
Menace our heart ere we master his own;  
Then let him receive the new knowledge and wait us,  
Pardoned in heaven, the first by the throne.

*WILLIAM ALLINGHAM.*

1828—1889.

## THE TOUCHSTONE.

A MAN there came, whence none could tell,  
Bearing a Touchstone in his hand;  
And tested all things in the land  
By its unerring spell.

Quick birth of transmutation smote  
The fair to foul, the foul to fair;  
Purple nor ermine did he spare,  
Nor scorn the dusty coat.

Of heirloom jewels, prized so much,  
Were many changed to chips and clods,  
And even statues of the gods  
Crumbled beneath its touch.

Then angrily the people cried,  
“ The loss outweighs the profit far;  
Our goods suffice us as they are;  
We will not have them tried.”

And since they could not so prevail  
To check his unrelenting quest,  
They seized him, saying—"Let him test  
How real it is, our jail!"

But, tho' they slew him with the sword,  
And in a fire his Touchstone burn'd,  
Its doings could not be o'erturn'd,  
Its undoings restored.

And when, to stop all future harm,  
They strew'd its ashes on the breeze;  
They little guess'd each grain of these  
Convey'd the perfect charm.

North, south, in rings and amulets,  
Throughout the crowded world 'tis borne;  
Which, as a fashion long outworn,  
Its ancient mind forgets.

*HENRY DAVID THOREAU.*

1817—1862.

## INDEPENDENCE.

My life more civil is and free  
Than any civil polity.

Ye princes, keep your realms  
And circumscribéd power,  
Not wide as are my dreams,  
Nor rich as is this hour.

What can ye give which I have not?  
What can ye take which I have got?  
Can ye defend the dangerless?  
Can ye inherit nakedness?

To all true wants time's ear is deaf,  
Penurious States lend no relief  
Out of their pelf.  
But a free soul—thank God—  
Can help itself.

Be sure your fate  
Doth keep apart its state,—  
Not linked with any band,  
Even the noblest in the land,—

In tented fields with cloth of gold  
No place doth hold,  
But is more chivalrous than they are,  
And sigheth for a nobler war;  
A finer strain its trumpet rings,  
A brighter gleam its armour flings.

The life that I aspire to live,  
No man proposeth me;  
No trade upon the street  
Wears its emblazonry.

*EMILY BRONTE.*

1818—1848.

## THE OLD STOIC.

RICHES I hold in light esteem,  
And Love I laugh to scorn ;  
And lust of fame was but a dream,  
That vanished with the morn.

And if I pray, the only prayer  
That moves my lips for me  
Is, “Leave the heart that now I bear,  
And give me liberty.”

Yes, as my swift days near their goal  
'Tis all that I implore ;  
In life and death a chainless soul,  
With courage to endure.

*WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.*

1805—1879.

[The famous abolitionist; editor of *The Liberator*, 1831-1866.]

## INDEPENDENCE DAY.

## PART I.

THE bells are ringing merrily,  
The cannon loudly roar,  
And thunder-shouts for Liberty  
Are heard from shore to shore ;  
And countless banners to the breeze  
Their stars and stripes display :  
What call for sights and sounds like these ?  
'Tis Independence day !

Our fathers spurned the British yoke,  
Determined to be free ;  
And full of might they rose and broke  
The chains of tyranny !  
O long they toiled, with zeal unfeigned,  
And kept their foes at bay,  
Till, by their valorous deeds, they gained  
Our Independence day.

They fought not for themselves alone,  
 But for the rights of all,  
 Of every caste, complexion, zone,  
 On this terrestrial ball :  
 To God they made their high appeal,  
 In hope, not in dismay ;  
 For well they trusted He would seal  
 Their Independence day !

Their creed how just—their creed how grand !  
 ALL MEN ARE EQUAL BORN !  
 Let those who cannot understand  
 This truth be laughed to scorn !  
 Cheers for the land in which we live,  
 The free, the fair, the gay !  
 And hearty thanks to Heaven we'll give  
 For Independence day !

## PART II.

O GOD ! what mockery is this !  
 Our land how lost to shame !  
 Well may all Europe jeer and hiss  
 At mention of her name !  
 For, while she boasts of Liberty,  
 'Neath Slavery's iron sway  
 Three millions of her people lie,  
 On Independence day !

She may not, must not, thus rejoice,  
 Nor of her triumphs tell :  
 Hushed be the cannon's thundering voice,  
 And muffled every bell !

Dissolved in tears, prone in the dust,  
For mercy let her pray,  
That judgments on her may not burst  
On Independence day !

Lo ! where her starry banner waves  
In many a graceful fold—  
There toil, and bleed, and groan her slaves,  
And men, like brutes, are sold !  
Her hands are red with crimson stains,  
And bloody is her way ;  
She wields the lash, she forges chains,  
On Independence day.

Friends of your country, of your race,  
Of Freedom, and of God !  
Combine, Oppression to efface,  
And break the tyrant's rod ;  
All traces of injustice sweep,  
By moral power, away ;  
Then a glorious jubilee we'll keep  
On Independence day !

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TO AN ELOQUENT ADVOCATE OF INDIAN  
RIGHTS.

If unto marble statues thou had'st spoken,  
 Or icy hearts congealed by polar years,  
 The strength of thy pure eloquence had broken—  
 Its generous heat had melted them to tears ;  
 Which pearly drops had been a rainbow-token,  
 Bidding the redmen soothe their gloomy fears.

If Honour, Justice, Truth, had not forsaken  
 The place once hallowed as their bright abode,  
 The faith of Treaties never had been shaken,  
 Our country would have kept the trust she owed ;  
 Nor Violence nor Treachery had taken  
 Away those rights which Nature's God bestowed.

Fruitless thy mighty efforts—vain appealing  
 To grasping Avarice, that ne'er relents ;  
 To Party Power, that shamelessly is stealing,  
 Banditti-like, whatever spoil it scents ;  
 To base Intrigue, his cloven foot revealing,  
 That struts in Honesty's habiliments.

Our land, once green as Paradise, is hoary,  
 E'en in its youth, with tyranny and crime ;  
 Its soil with blood of Afric's sons is gory,  
 Whose wrongs Eternity can tell—not Time ;  
 The redman's woes shall swell the damning story,  
 To be rehearsed in every age and clime !

## THE TRIUMPH OF FREEDOM.

GOD speed the year of jubilee,  
The wide world o'er !  
When, from their galling chains set free,  
The oppressed shall vilely bend the knee  
And wear the yoke of tyranny,  
Like brutes, no more :—  
That year will come, and Freedom's reign  
To man his plundered rights again  
Restore.

God speed the day when human blood  
Shall cease to flow !  
In every clime be understood  
The claims of Human Brotherhood,  
And each return for evil, good—  
Not blow for blow :—  
That day will come, all feuds to end,  
And change into a faithful friend  
Each foe.

God speed the hour, the glorious hour,  
When none on earth  
Shall exercise a lordly power,  
Nor in a tyrant's presence cower,  
But all to Manhood's stature tower,  
By equal birth !—  
That hour will come, to each, to all,  
And from his prison-house the thrall  
Go forth.

Until that year, day, hour arrive,—  
If life be given;—  
With head and heart and hand I'll strive  
To break the rod, and rend the gyve,  
The spoiler of his prey deprive,—  
So witness Heaven!  
And never from my chosen post,  
Whate'er the peril or the cost,  
Be driven.

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### HOPE FOR THE ENSLAVED.

YE who in bondage pine,  
Shut out from light divine,  
Bereft of hope;  
Whose limbs are worn with chains,  
Whose tears bedew our plains,  
Whose blood our glory stains,  
In gloom who grope:—

Shout! for the hour draws nigh,  
That gives you liberty!  
And from the dust,  
So long your vile embrace,  
Uprising, take your place  
Among earth's noblest race—  
'Tis right and just!

The night, the long, long night  
Of infamy and slight,  
Shame and disgrace,  
And slavery, worse than e'er  
Rome's serfs were doomed to bear,  
Bloody beyond compare,  
Recedes apace !

Lorn Africa, once more,  
As proudly as of yore,  
Shall yet be seen  
Foremost of all the earth  
In learning, beauty, worth—  
By dignity of birth,  
A peerless Queen !

Speed, speed the hour, O Lord !  
Speak, and at thy dread word,  
Fetters shall fall  
From every limb—the strong  
No more the weak shall wrong,  
But Liberty's sweet song  
Be sung by all !

*ELIZABETH M. CHANDLER.*

1807—1834.

[Author of many religious and philanthropical works; took a prominent part in the anti-slavery agitation.]

## SLAVE-PRODUCE.

EAT ! they are cates for a lady's lip,  
Rich as the sweets that the wild bees sip ;  
Mingled viands that nature hath pour'd  
From the plenteous stores of her flowing board,  
Bearing no trace of man's cruelty—save  
The red life-drops of his human slave.

List thee, lady ! and turn aside,  
With a loathing heart, from the feast of pride ;  
For, mix'd with the pleasant sweets it bears,  
Is the hidden curse of scalding tears,  
Wrung out from woman's bloodshot eye  
By the depth of her deadly agony.

Look ! they are robes from a foreign loom,  
Delicate, light, as the rose-leaf's bloom ;  
Stainless and pure in their snowy tint  
As the drift unmark'd by a footstep's print.  
Surely such garments should fitting be  
For woman's softness and purity.

Yet fling them off from thy shrinking limb,  
For sighs have render'd their brightness dim;  
And many a mother's shriek and groan,  
And many a daughter's burning moan,  
And many a sob of wild despair  
From woman's heart is lingering there.

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### THE ENFRANCHISED SLAVES AND THEIR BENEFACTRESS.

OH, blessings on thee, lady! we could lie  
Down at thy feet, in our deep gratitude,  
    And give ourselves to die,  
So thou could'st be made happier by our blood;  
Yet life has never seem'd so dear as now,  
That we may lift a free unbranded brow.

Free! free!—how glorious 'tis to lift an eye,  
Unblenching beneath infamy and shame,  
    To the blue boundless sky,  
And feel each moment from our hearts the tame  
Dull pulses of our vileness pass away,  
Like sluggish mists before the rising day.

And then our infants! we shall never see  
Their young limbs cheapen'd at the public mart,  
    Or shrink in agony  
To view them writhe beneath the cruel smart  
Of the rude lash;—they ne'er like us shall know  
The slave's dark lot of wretchedness and woe.

For this we bless thee, lady! and may Heaven  
Pour down its frequent blessings on thy brow;  
And to thy life be given  
Oft, through its sunset hours, such bliss as now  
Is swelling round thy heart—scarce less than theirs  
Who pour for thee their deep and grateful prayers.

*JOHN PIERPONT.*

1785—1866.

[Unitarian minister and abolitionist; author of "Airs of Palestine," 1840.]

## THE CHAIN.

Is it his daily toil that wrings  
From the slave's bosom that deep sigh ?  
Is it his niggard fare that brings  
The tear into his downcast eye ?

Oh no; by toil and humble fare  
Earth's sons their health and vigour gain;  
It is because the slave must wear  
His chain.

Is it the sweat from every pore  
That starts, and glistens in the sun,  
As, the young cotton bending o'er,  
His naked back it shines upon ?

Is it the drops that from his breast  
Into the thirsty furrows fall,  
That scald his soul, deny him rest,  
And turn his cup of life to gall ?

No;—for, that man with sweating brow  
Shall eat his bread, doth God ordain;  
This the slave's spirit doth not bow;  
It is his chain.

Is it, that scorching sands and skies  
Upon his velvet skin have set  
A hue, admired in beauty's eyes,  
In Genoa's silks, and polished jet?

No; for this colour was his pride,  
When roaming o'er his native plain;  
Even here, his hue can he abide,  
But not his chain.

Nor is it, that his back and limbs  
Are scored with many a gory gash,  
That his heart bleeds, and his brain swims,  
And the MAN dies beneath the lash.

For Baäl's priests, on Carmel's slope,  
Themselves with knives and lancets scored  
Till the blood spurted,—in the hope  
The god would hear whom they adored;—

And Christian flagellants their backs  
All naked to the scourge have given;  
And martyrs to the stakes and racks  
Have gone, of choice, in hope of heaven;—

For here there was an inward will !  
Here spake the spirit, upward tending ;  
And o'er Faith's cloud-girt altar, still,  
Hope hung her rainbow, heavenward bending.

But will and hope hath not the slave,  
His bleeding spirit to sustain :—  
No—he must drag on, to the grave,  
His chain.

*HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.*

1807-1882.

## THE WARNING.

BEWARE ! The Israelite of old, who tore  
The lion in his path—when, poor and blind,  
He saw the blessed light of heaven no more,  
Shorn of his noble strength, and forced to grind  
In prison, and at last led forth to be  
A pander to Philistine revelry—

Upon the pillars of the temple laid  
His desperate hands, and in its overthrow  
Destroyed himself, and with him those who made  
A cruel mockery of his sightless woe ;  
The poor, blind Slave, the scoff and jest of all,  
Expired, and thousands perished in the fall !

There is a poor, blind Samson in this land,  
Shorn of his strength, and bound in bonds of steel,  
Who may, in some grim revel, raise his hand,  
And shake the pillars of this Commonweal,  
Till the vast Temple of our liberties  
A shapeless mass of wreck and rubbish lies.

## THE SLAVE'S DREAM.

BESIDE the ungathered rice he lay,  
    His sickle in his hand ;  
His breast was bare, his matted hair  
    Was buried in the sand.  
Again, in the mist and shadow of sleep,  
    He saw his Native Land.

Wide through the landscape of his dreams  
    The lordly Niger flowed ;  
Beneath the palm-trees on the plain  
    Once more a king he strode ;  
And heard the tinkling caravans  
    Descend the mountain-road.

He saw once more his dark-eyed queen  
    Among her children stand ;  
They clasped his neck, they kissed his cheeks,  
    They held him by the hand !—  
A tear burst from the sleeper's lids,  
    And fell into the sand.

And then at furious speed he rode  
    Along the Niger's bank ;  
His bridle-reins were golden chains,  
    And, with a martial clank,  
At each leap he could feel his scabbard of steel  
    Smiting his stallion's flank.

Before him, like a blood-red flag,  
The bright flamingos flew ;  
From morn to night he followed their flight,  
O'er plains where the tamarind grew,  
Till he saw the roofs of Caffre huts,  
And the ocean rose to view.

At night he heard the lion roar,  
And the hyena scream,  
And the river-horse, as he crushed the reeds  
Beside some hidden stream ;  
And it passed, like a glorious roll of drums,  
Through the triumph of his dream.

The forests, with their myriad tongues,  
Shouted of liberty ;  
And the blast of the Desert cried aloud,  
With a voice so wild and free,  
That he started in his sleep, and smiled  
At their tempestuous glee.

He did not feel the driver's whip,  
Nor the burning heat of day ;  
For Death had illumined the Land of Sleep,  
And his lifeless body lay  
A worn-out fetter, that the soul  
Had broken and thrown away !

*JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.*

1807—1892.

## SONG OF THE FREE.

PRIDE of New England !  
Soul of our fathers !  
Shrink we all craven-like,  
When the storm gathers ?  
What though the tempest be  
Over us lowering,  
Where's the New-Englander  
Shamefully cowering ?  
Graves green and holy  
Around us are lying,—  
Free were the sleepers all,  
Living and dying !

Back with the Southerner's  
Padlocks and scourges !  
Go,—let him fetter down  
Ocean's free surges !  
Go,—let him silence  
Winds, clouds, and waters,—  
Never New England's own  
Free sons and daughters !

Free as our rivers are  
    Oceanward going,—  
Free as the breezes are  
    Over us blowing.

Up to our altars, then,  
    Haste we, and summon  
Courage and loveliness,  
    Manhood and woman !  
Deep let our pledges be :  
    Freedom for ever !  
Truce with oppression  
    Never, oh, never !  
By our own birthright gift,  
    Granted of Heaven,—  
Freedom for heart and lip,  
    Be the pledge given !

If we have whispered truth,  
    Whisper no longer !  
Speak as the tempest does,  
    Sterner and stronger ;  
Still be the tones of truth  
    Louder and firmer,  
Startling the haughty South  
    With the deep murmur ;  
God and our charter's right,  
    Freedom for ever !  
Truce with oppression,—  
    Never, oh, never !

## TO MASSACHUSETTS.

1844.

WHAT though around thee blazes  
    No fiery rallying sign ?  
From all thy own high places,  
    Give heaven the light of thine !  
What though unthrilled, unmoving,  
    The statesmen stand apart,  
And comes no warm approving  
    From Mammon's crowded mart.

Still, let the land be shaken  
    By a summons of thine own !  
By all save truth forsaken,  
    Why, stand with that alone !  
Shrink not from strife unequal !  
    With the best is always hope ;  
And ever in the sequel  
    God holds the right side up !

But when, with thine uniting,  
    Come voices long and loud,  
And far-off hills are writing  
    Thy fire-words on the cloud ;  
When from Penobscot's fountains  
    A deep response is heard,  
And across the Western mountains  
    Rolls back thy rallying word ;

Shall thy line of battle falter,  
With its allies just in view?  
Oh, by hearth and holy altar,  
My fatherland, be true!  
Fling abroad thy scrolls of Freedom!  
Speed them onward far and fast!  
Over hill and valley speed them,  
Like the sibyl's on the blast!

Lo! the Empire State is shaking  
The shackles from her hand;  
With the rugged North is waking  
The level sunset land!  
On they come,—the free battalions!  
East and West and North they come,  
And the heart-beat of the millions  
Is the beat of Freedom's drum.

“To the tyrant's plot no favour!  
No heed to place-fed knaves!  
Bar and bolt the door for ever  
Against the land of slaves!”  
Hear it, mother Earth, and hear it,  
The Heavens above us spread!  
The land is roused,—its spirit  
Was sleeping, but not dead!

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## CLERICAL OPPRESSORS.

[In the report of the celebrated pro-slavery meeting in Charlestown, S.C., on the 4th of the ninth month, 1835, published in the *Courier* of that city, it is stated, "The CLERGY of all denominations attended in a body, LENDING THEIR SANCTION TO THE PROCEEDINGS, and adding by their presence to the impressive character of the scene !"]

JUST God !—and these are they  
 Who minister at Thine altar, God of Right !  
 Men who their hands with prayer and blessings lay  
 On Israel's Ark of light !

What ! preach and kidnap men ?  
 Give thanks,—and rob Thy own afflicted poor ?  
 Talk of Thy glorious liberty, and then  
 Bolt hard the captive's door ?

What ! servants of Thy own  
 Merciful Son, who came to seek and save  
 The homeless and the outcast,—fettering down  
 The tasked and plundered slave !

Pilate and Herod, friends !  
 Chief priests and rulers, as of old, combine !  
 Just God and holy ! is that church, which lends  
 Strength to the spoiler, Thine ?

Paid hypocrites, who turn  
 Judgment aside, and rob the Holy Book  
 Of those high words of truth which search and burn  
 In warning and rebuke ;

Feed fat, ye locusts, feed !  
 And, in your tasselled pulpits, thank the Lord  
 That, from the toiling bondman's utter need,  
 Ye pile your own full board.

How long, O Lord ! how long  
 Shall such a priesthood barter truth away,  
 And in Thy name, for robbery and wrong  
 At Thy own altars pray ?

Is not Thy hand stretched forth  
 Visibly in the heavens, to awe and smite ?  
 Shall not the living God of all the earth,  
 And heaven above, do right ?

Woe, then, to all who grind  
 Their brethren of a common Father down !  
 To all who plunder from the immortal mind  
 Its bright and glorious crown !

Woe to the priesthood ! woe  
 To those whose hire is with the price of blood,—  
 Perverting, darkening, changing, as they go,  
 The searching truths of God !

Their glory and their might  
 Shall perish ; and their very name shall be  
 Vile before all the people, in the light  
 Of a world's liberty.

Oh, speed the moment on  
 When Wrong shall cease, and Liberty and Love  
 And Truth and Right throughout the earth be known  
 As in their home above.

## THE RENDITION.

1854.

I HEARD the train's shrill whistle call,  
I saw an earnest look beseech,  
And rather by that look than speech,  
My neighbour told me all.

And, as I thought of Liberty  
Marched handcuffed down that sworded street,  
The solid earth beneath my feet  
Reeled fluid as the sea.

I felt a sense of bitter loss,—  
Shame, tearless grief and stifling wrath,  
And loathing fear, as if my path  
A serpent stretched across.

All love of home, all pride of place,  
All generous confidence and trust,  
Sank smothering in that deep disgust  
And anguish of disgrace.

Down on my native hills of June,  
And home's green quiet, hiding all  
Fell sudden darkness like the fall  
Of midnight upon noon !

And Law, an unloosed maniac, strong,  
Blood-drunken, through the blackness trod,  
Hoarse-shouting in the ear of God  
The blasphemy of wrong.

"Oh, Mother, from thy memories proud,  
 The old renown, dear Commonwealth,  
 Lend this dead air a breeze of health,  
 And smite with stars this cloud.

"Mother of Freedom, wise and brave,  
 Rise awful in thy strength," I said ;  
 Ah me ! I speak but to the dead ;  
 I stood upon her grave !

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## LAUS DEO !

ON HEARING THE BELLS RING ON THE PASSAGE  
 OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ABOLISHING  
 SLAVERY.

IT is done !  
 Clang of bell and roar of gun  
 Send the tidings up and down.  
 How the belfries rock and reel !  
 How the great guns, peal on peal,  
 Fling the joy from town to town !

Ring, O bells !  
 Every stroke exulting tells  
 Of the burial hour of crime.  
 Loud and long, that all may hear,  
 Ring for every listening ear  
 Of Eternity and Time !

Let us kneel :  
God's own voice is in that peal,  
And this spot is holy ground.  
Lord, forgive us ! What are we,  
That our eyes this glory see,  
That our ears have heard the sound !

For the Lord  
On the whirlwind is abroad ;  
In the earthquake He has spoken ;  
He has smitten with His thunder  
The iron wall asunder,  
And the gates of brass are broken !

Loud and long  
Lift the old exulting song ;  
Sing with Miriam by the sea  
He has cast the mighty down ;  
Horse and rider sink and drown ;  
“ He hath triumphed gloriously ! ”

Did we dare,  
In our agony of prayer,  
Ask for more than He has done ?  
When was ever His right hand  
Over any time or land  
Stretched as now beneath the sun ?

How they pale,  
Ancient myth and song and tale,  
In this wonder of our days,  
When the cruel rod of war  
Blossoms white with righteous law,  
And the wrath of man is praise !

Blotted out !  
All within and all about  
Shall a fresher life begin ;  
Freer breathe the universe  
As it rolls its heavy curse  
On the dead and buried sin !

It is done !  
In the circuit of the sun  
Shall the sound thereof go forth.  
It shall bid the sad rejoice,  
It shall give the dumb a voice,  
It shall belt with joy the earth !

Ring and swing,  
Bells of joy ! On morning's wing  
Send the song of praise abroad !  
With a sound of broken chains  
Tell the nations that He reigns,  
Who alone is Lord and God !

*JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.*

1819—1891.

**STANZAS ON FREEDOM.**

MEN ! whose boast it is that ye  
Come of fathers brave and free,  
If there breathe on earth a slave,  
Are ye truly free and brave ?  
If ye do not feel the chain,  
When it works a brother's pain,  
Are ye not base slaves indeed,  
Slaves unworthy to be freed ?

Women ! who shall one day bear  
Sons to breathe New England air,  
If ye hear without a blush  
Deeds to make the roused blood rush  
Like red lava through your veins,  
For your sisters now in chains,—  
Answer ! are ye fit to be  
Mothers of the brave and free ?

Is true Freedom but to break  
Fetters for our own dear sake,  
And with leathern hearts forget  
That we owe mankind a debt ?

No ! true Freedom is to share  
All the chains our brothers wear,  
And with heart and hand to be  
Earnest to make others free !

They are slaves who fear to speak  
For the fallen and the weak ;  
They are slaves who will not choose  
Hatred, scoffing, and abuse,  
Rather than in silence shrink  
From the truth they needs must think ;  
They are slaves who dare not be  
In the right with two or three.

---

### THE FATHERLAND.

WHERE is the true man's fatherland ?  
Is it where he by chance is born ?  
Doth not the yearning spirit scorn  
In such scant borders to be spanned ?  
Oh, yes ! his fatherland must be  
As the blue heaven wide and free !

Is it alone where freedom is,  
Where God is God, and man is man ?  
Doth he not claim a broader span  
For the soul's love of home than this ?  
Oh, yes ! his fatherland must be  
As the blue heaven wide and free !

Where'er a human heart doth wear  
Joy's myrtle-wreath or sorrow's gyves,  
Where'er a human spirit strives  
After a life more true and fair,  
There is the true man's birthplace grand,  
His is a world-wide fatherland !

Where'er a single slave doth pine,  
Where'er one man may help another,—  
Thank God for such a birthright, brother,—  
That spot of earth is thine and mine !  
There is the true man's birthplace grand,  
His is a world-wide fatherland !

---

### WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

IN a small chamber, friendless and unseen,  
Toiled o'er his types one poor, unlearn'd young man ;  
The place was dark, unfurnished and mean—  
Yet there the freedom of a race began.

Help came but slowly; surely no man yet  
Put lever to the heavy world with less;  
What need of help?—He knew how types were set,  
He had a dauntless spirit, and a press.

Such earnest natures are the fiery pith,  
The compact nucleus round which systems grow;  
Mass after mass becomes inspired therewith,  
And whirls impregnate with the central glow.

O Truth ! O Freedom ! how are ye still born  
 In the rude stable, in the manger nursed !  
 What humble hands unbar those gates of morn,  
 Through which the splendours of the new day burst !

What ! shall one monk, scarce known beyond his cell,  
 Front Rome's far-reaching bolts, and scorn her frown ?  
 Brave Luther answered, Yes !—that thunder's swell  
 Rocked Europe, and discharmed the triple crown.

“ Whatever can be known of earth, we know,”  
 Sneered Europe's wise men, in their snail-shells curl'd;  
 No ! said one man in Genoa; and that No  
 Out of the dark created this New World.

Who is it will not dare himself to trust ?  
 Who is it hath not strength to stand alone ?  
 Who is it thwarts and bilks the inward must ?  
 He and his works like sand from earth are blown.

Men of a thousand shifts and wiles, look here !  
 See our straight-forward conscience put in pawn  
 To win a world ! See the obedient sphere  
 By bravery's simple gravitation drawn !

Shall we not heed the lesson taught of old,  
 And by the Present's lips repeated still—  
 In our own single manhood to be bold,  
 Fortressed in conscience and impregnable will ?

We stride the river daily at its spring,  
Nor in our childish thoughtlessness foresee  
What myriad vassal streams shall tribute bring,  
How like an equal it shall greet the sea !

O small beginnings, ye are great and strong,  
Based on a faithful heart and weariless brain;  
Ye build the future fair, ye conquer wrong,  
Ye earn the crown, and wear it not in vain !

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#### ON THE CAPTURE OF CERTAIN FUGITIVE SLAVES NEAR WASHINGTON.

Look on who will in apathy, and stifle they who can  
The sympathies, the hopes, the words, that make man  
truly man ;  
Let those whose hearts are dungeoned up with interest or  
with ease  
Consent to hear with quiet pulse of loathsome deeds like  
these !

I first drew in New England's air, and from her hardy  
breast  
Sucked in the tyrant-hating milk that will not let me  
rest ;  
And if my words seem treason to the dullard and the  
tame,  
'Tis but my Bay-State dialect,—our fathers spake the  
same !

Shame on the costly mockery of piling stone on stone  
To those who won our liberty, the heroes dead and gone,  
While we look coldly on, and see law-shielded ruffians  
    slay

The men who fain would win their own, the heroes of  
to-day !

Are we pledged to craven silence? O fling it to the  
    wind,

The parchment wall that bars us from the least of human  
    kind—

That makes us cringe and temporise, and dumbly stand at  
    rest,

While Pity's burning flood of words is red-hot in the  
    breast !

Though we break our fathers' promise, we have nobler  
    duties first;

The traitor to Humanity is the traitor most accursed ;  
Man is more than Constitutions ; better rot beneath the  
    sod,

Than be true to Church and State while we are doubly  
    false to God !

We owe allegiance to the State ; but deeper, truer, more,  
To the sympathies that God hath set within our spirit's  
    core ;—

Our country claims our fealty ; we grant it so, but then  
Before Man made us citizens, great Nature made us men.

He's true to God who's true to man ; wherever wrong is  
    done

To the humblest and the weakest, 'neath the all-behold-  
    ing sun,

That wrong is also done to us ; and they are slaves most base,  
Whose love of right is for themselves, and not for all their race.

God works for all. Ye cannot hem the hope of being free  
With parallels of latitude, with mountain-range or sea.  
Put golden padlocks on Truth's lips, be callous as ye will,  
From soul to soul o'er all the world leaps one electric thrill.

Chain down your slaves with ignorance, ye cannot keep apart,  
With all your craft of tyranny, the human heart from heart :  
When first the Pilgrims landed on the Bay-State's iron shore,  
The word went forth that slavery should one day be no more.

Out from the land of bondage, 'tis decreed our slaves shall go,  
And signs to us are offered, as erst to Pharaoh ;  
If we are blind, their exodus, like Israel's of yore,  
Through a Red Sea is doomed to be, whose surges are of gore.

'Tis ours to save our brethren, with peace and love to win  
Their darkened hearts from error, ere they harden it to sin ;  
But if before his duty man with listless spirit stands,  
Ere long the Great Avenger takes the work from out his hands.

## THE PRESENT CRISIS.

WHEN a deed is done for Freedom, through the broad  
earth's aching breast  
Runs a thrill of joy prophetic, trembling on from east to  
west,  
And the slave, where'er he cowers, feels the soul within  
him climb  
To the awful verge of manhood, as the energy sublime  
Of a century bursts full-blossomed on the thorny stem of  
Time.

Through the walls of hut and palace shoots the instant-  
aneous throe,  
When the travail of the Ages wrings earth's systems to  
and fro;  
At the birth of each new Era, with a recognising start,  
Nation wildly looks at nation, standing with mute lips  
apart,  
And glad Truth's yet mightier man-child leaps beneath  
the Future's heart.

So the Evil's triumph sendeth, with a terror and a chill,  
Under continent to continent, the sense of coming ill,  
And the slave, where'er he cowers, feels his sympathies  
with God  
In hot tear-drops ebbing earthward, to be drunk up by  
the sod,  
Till a corpse crawls round unburied, delving in the  
nobler clod.

For mankind are one in spirit, and an instinct bears  
along,  
Round the earth's electric circle, the swift flash of right  
or wrong ;  
Whether conscious or unconscious, yet Humanity's vast  
frame  
Through its ocean-sundered fibres feels the gush of joy or  
shame ;—  
In the gain or loss of one race all the rest have equal  
claim.

Once to every man and nation comes the moment to  
decide,  
In the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or  
evil side ;  
Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the  
bloom or blight,  
Parts the goats upon the left hand, and the sheep upon  
the right,  
And the choice goes by for ever 'twixt that darkness and  
that light.

. . . . .

By the light of burning heretics Christ's bleeding feet I  
track,  
Toiling up new Calvaries ever with the cross that turns  
not back,  
And these mounts of anguish number how each generation  
learned  
One new word of that grand *credo* which in prophet-  
hearts hath burned  
Since the first man stood God-conquered with his face to  
heaven upturned.

For Humanity sweeps onward ; where to-day the martyr stands,  
On the morrow crouches Judas with the silver in his hands ;  
Far in front the cross stands ready and the crackling faggots burn,  
While the hooting mob of yesterday in silent awe return  
To glean up the scattered ashes into History's golden urn.

'Tis as easy to be heroes as to sit the idle slaves  
Of a legendary virtue carved upon our fathers' graves,  
Worshippers of light ancestral make the present light a crime ;—  
Was the *Mayflower* launched by cowards, steered by men behind their time ?  
Turn those tracks toward Past or Future, that make Plymouth rock sublime ?

They were men of present valour, stalwart old inconoclasts,  
Unconvinced by axe or gibbet that all virtue was the Past's ;  
But we make their truth our falsehood, thinking that hath made us free,  
Hoarding it in mouldy parchments, while our tender spirits flee  
The rude grasp of that great Impulse which drove them across the sea.

They have rights who dare maintain them ; we are traitors to our sires,  
Smothering in their hol'ly ashes Freedom's new-lit altar-fires ;

Shall we make their creed our gaoler? Shall we, in our  
haste to slay,  
From the tombs of the old prophets steal the funeral  
lamps away  
To light up the martyr-faggots round the prophets of to-  
day?

New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient  
good uncouth;  
They must upward still, and onward, who would keep  
abreast of Truth;  
Lo, before us gleam her camp-fires! we ourselves must  
Pilgrims be,  
Launch our *Mayflower*, and steer boldly through the  
desperate winter sea,  
Nor attempt the Future's portal with the Past's blood-  
rusted key.

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## THE PIONEER.

WHAT man would live coffined with brick and stone,  
Imprisoned from the influences of air,  
And cramped with selfish land-marks everywhere,  
When all before him stretches, furrowless and lone,  
The unmapped prairie none can fence or own?

What man would read and read the self-same faces,  
And, like the marbles which the windmill grinds,  
Rub smooth for ever with the same smooth minds,  
This year retracing last year's, every year's, dull traces,  
When there are woods and un-man-stifled places?

What man o'er one old thought would pore and pore,  
Shut like a book between its covers thin,  
For every fool to leave his dog's-ears in,  
When solitude is his, and God for evermore,  
Just for the opening of a paltry door?

What man would watch life's oozy element  
Creep Letheward for ever, when he might  
Down some great river drift beyond men's sight,  
To where the undethroned forest's royal tent  
Broods with its hush o'er half a continent?

What man with men would push and altercate,  
Piecing out crooked means for crooked ends,  
When he can have the skies and woods for friends,  
Snatch back the rudder of his undismantled fate,  
And in himself be ruler, church, and state?

Cast leaves and feathers rot in last year's nest,  
The wingéd brood, flown thence, new dwellings plan;  
The serf of his own Past is not a man;  
To change and change is life, to move and never rest;—  
Not what we are, but what we hope, is best.

The wild, free woods make no man halt or blind;  
Cities rob men of eyes and hands and feet,  
Patching one whole of many incomplete;  
The general preys upon the individual mind,  
And each alone is helpless as the wind.

Each man is some man's servant ; every soul  
Is by some other's presence quite discrowned ;  
Each owes the next through all the imperfect round,  
Yet not with mutual help ; each man is his own goal,  
And the whole earth must stop to pay his toll.

Here, life the undiminished man demands ;  
New faculties stretch out to meet new wants,  
What Nature asks, that Nature also grants ;  
Here man is lord, not drudge, of eyes and feet and hands,  
And to his life is knit with hourly bands.

Come out, then, from the old thoughts and old ways,  
Before you harden to a crystal cold  
Which the new life can shatter, but not mould ;  
Freedom for you still waits, still, looking backward, stays,  
But widens still the irretrievable space.

*EDMUND H. SEARS.*

1810—1876.

[Unitarian pastor. Author of several volumes of poems.]

## “OLD JOHN BROWN.”

THEY call thee hot-brained, crazed, and mad ;  
    But every word that falls  
Goes straight and true, and hits the mark  
    More sure than cannon-balls.  
Through spectre forms of bogus law  
    It cuts its way complete ;  
And judge and jury, too, are tried  
    At God’s great judgment-seat.

Old man, farewell ! They’ll take thy life ;  
    For dangerous enough,  
In these our sweetly piping times,  
    Are men of hero stuff.  
We should tread soft above the fires  
    That underneath us lie :  
You’ll crack the crust of compromise,  
    And set them spouting high.

Where Henry’s cry for “Liberty”  
    Once sent its shivering thrill,  
There’s only room, six feet by two,  
    For heroes now to fill.

And o'er the spot the years will roll,  
As spring its verdure weaves,  
And autumn o'er the felon's grave  
Shakes down its yellow leaves.

But not the spot six feet by two  
Will hold a man like thee ;  
John Brown will tramp the shaking earth  
From Blue Ridge to the sea,  
Till the strong angel comes at last  
And opes each dungeon door,  
And God's Great Charter holds, and waves  
O'er all his humble poor.

And then the humble poor will come  
In that far distant day,  
And from the felon's nameless grave  
They'll brush the leaves away ;  
And grey old men will point the spot  
Beneath the pine-tree shade,  
As children ask with streaming eyes  
Where Old John Brown was laid.

*JOHN KELLS INGRAM.*

Born 1823.

## THE MEN OF 'NINETY-EIGHT.

WHO fears to speak of 'Ninety-Eight ?  
Who blushes at the name ?  
When cowards mock the patriot's fate,  
Who hangs his head for shame ?  
He's all a knave, or half a slave,  
Who slights his country thus ;  
But a true man, like you, man,  
Will fill your glass with us.

We drink the memory of the brave,  
The faithful and the few ;  
Some lie far off beyond the wave,  
Some sleep in Ireland, too ;  
All—all are gone, but still lives on  
The fame of those who died ;  
All true men, like you, men,  
Remember them with pride.

Some on the shores of distant lands  
Their weary hearts have laid,  
And by the stranger's heedless hands  
Their lonely graves were made ;

But though their clay be far away  
Beyond the Atlantic foam,  
In true men, like you, men,  
Their spirit's still at home.

The dust of some is Irish earth;  
Among their own they rest;  
And the same land that gave them birth  
Has caught them to her breast;  
And we will pray that from their clay  
Full many a race may start  
Of true men, like you, men,  
To act as brave a part.

They rose in dark and evil days  
To right their native land;  
They kindled here a living blaze  
That nothing shall withstand.  
Alas ! that Might can vanquish Right—  
They fell and pass'd away;  
But true men, like you, men,  
Are plenty here to-day.

Then here's their memory—may it be  
For us a guiding light,  
To cheer our strife for liberty,  
And teach us to unite.  
Through good and ill, be Ireland's still,  
Though sad as theirs your fate;  
And true men be you, men,  
Like those of 'Ninety-Eight.

*THOMAS OSBORNE DAVIS.*

1814—1845.

[The most brilliant and popular of the poetical contributors to the *Nation*. His poems were collected and published in 1846.]

## A NATION ONCE AGAIN.

WHEN boyhood's fire was in my blood,  
I read of ancient freemen,  
For Greece and Rome who bravely stood,  
Three hundred men and three men :  
And then I prayed I yet might see  
Our fetters rent in twain,  
And Ireland, long a province, be  
A Nation once again.

And from that time, through wildest woe,  
That hope has shone, a far light ;  
Nor could love's brightest summer-glow  
Outshine that solemn starlight :  
It seemed to watch above my head  
In forum, field, and fane ;  
Its angel voice sang round my bed,  
“ A Nation once again.”

It whispered, too, that " freedom's ark,  
And service high and holy,  
Would be profaned by feelings dark  
And passions vain or lowly :  
For freedom comes from God's right hand,  
And needs a godly train ;  
And righteous men must make our land  
A Nation once again."

So, as I grew from boy to man  
I bent me to that bidding—  
My spirit of each selfish plan  
And cruel passion riddling ;  
For thus I hoped some day to aid—  
Oh, can such hope be vain ?—  
When my dear country shall be made  
A Nation once again.

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### NATIVE SWORDS.

A VOLUNTEER SONG—1ST JULY 1792.

WE'VE bent too long to braggart wrong,  
While force our prayers derided ;  
We've fought too long, ourselves among,  
By knaves and priests divided ;

United now, no more we'll bow;  
 Foul faction, we discard it;  
 And now, thank God ! our native sod  
 Has Native Swords to guard it.

Like rivers which o'er valleys rich  
 Bring ruin in their water,  
 On native land a native hand  
 Flung foreign fraud and slaughter.  
 From Dermod's crime to Tudor's time  
 Our clans were our perdition ;  
 Religion's name, since then, became  
 Our pretext for division.

But worse than all, with Lim'rick's fall  
 Our valour seemed to perish ;  
 Or, o'er the main, in France and Spain,  
 For bootless vengeance flourish.  
 The peasant, here, grew pale for fear  
 He'd suffer for our glory,  
 While France sung joy for Fontenoy,  
 And Europe hymned our story.

But now no clan, nor factious plan,  
 The east and west can sunder—  
 Why Ulster e'er should Munster fear  
 Can only wake our wonder.  
 Religion's crost, when union's lost,  
 And "royal gifts" retard it ;  
 And now, thank God, our native sod  
 Has Native Swords to guard it.

## THE GREEN ABOVE THE RED.

FULL often, when our fathers saw the Red above the Green,  
They rose in rude but fierce array, with sabre, pike, and skian,  
And over many a noble town, and many a field of dead,  
They proudly set the Irish Green above the English Red.

But in the end, throughout the land, the shameful sight  
was seen—  
The English Red in triumph high above the Irish Green ;  
But well they died in breach and field, who, as their spirits fled,  
Still saw the Green maintain its place above the English Red.

And they who saw, in after times, the Red above the Green,  
Were withered as the grass that dies beneath a forest screen;  
Yet often by this healthy hope their sinking hearts were fed,  
That, in some day to come, the Green should flutter o'er the Red.

Sure 'twas for this Lord Edward died, and Wolfe Tone sunk serene—  
Because they could not bear to leave the Red above the Green;

And 'twas for this that Owen fought, and Sarsfield nobly bled—  
Because their eyes were hot to see the Green above the Red.

So, when the strife began again, our darling Irish Green  
Was down upon the earth, while high the English Red  
    was seen;  
Yet still we held our fearless course, for something in us said,  
“Before the strife is o'er you'll see the Green above the Red.”

And 'tis for this we think and toil, and knowledge strive to glean,  
That we may pull the English Red below the Irish Green,  
And leave our sons sweet Liberty, and smiling plenty spread  
Above the land once dark with blood—the Green above the Red.

The jealous English tyrant now has banned the Irish Green,  
And forced us to conceal it like a something foul and mean;  
And yet, by heavens! he'll sooner raise his victims from the dead,  
Than force our hearts to leave the Green and cotton to the Red!

We'll trust ourselves, for God is good, and blesses those who lean  
On their brave hearts, and not upon an earthly king or queen;

And freely, as we lift our hands, we vow our blood to  
shed,—  
Once and for evermore to raise the Green above the  
Red !

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## A SONG FOR THE IRISH MILITIA.

THE tribune's tongue and poet's pen  
May sow the seed in prostrate men ;  
But 'tis the soldier's sword alone  
Can reap the crop so bravely sown !  
No more I'll sing nor idly pine,  
But train my soul to lead a line—  
A soldier's life's the life for me,  
A soldier's death, so Ireland's free.

No foe would fear your thunder words,  
If 'twere not for our lightning swords—  
If tyrants yield when millions pray,  
'Tis lest they link in war array ;  
Nor peace itself is safe, but when  
The sword is sheathed by fighting men.

The rifle brown and sabre bright  
Can freely speak and nobly write—  
What prophets preached the truth so well  
As Hofer, Brian, Bruce, and Tell ?  
God guard the creed these heroes taught,  
That blood-bought Freedom's cheaply bought.

Then welcome be the bivouac,  
The hardy stand, and fierce attack,  
Where pikes will tame their carbineers,  
And rifles thin their bay'neteers,  
And every field, the island through,  
Will show "what Irishmen can do."

Yet, 'tis not strength, and 'tis not steel  
Alone can make the English reel;  
But wisdom, working day by day,  
Till come's the time for passion's sway—  
The patient dint, and powder shock,  
Can blast an empire like a rock.

A soldier's life's the life for me,  
A soldier's death, so Ireland's free.

*J. DE JEAN FRASER.*

1809—1849.

[An Irish cabinet-maker, called "the poet of the workshop."  
Wrote under the title of "J. de Jean."]

## THE PRISONER AT THE BAR.

'TIS a jest to ask me why  
For my deeds I should not die;  
I appeal, for my reply,  
    To your thongs !  
To my corn beneath the hoof !  
To the flame-flag from my roof !  
Do ye want more maddening proof  
    Of my wrongs ?

Honest men, before my eyes,  
Have been tortured into lies ;  
And ye bought from perjured spies  
    Priceless blood.  
Ye corrupted and debased,  
Ye inveigled, trapped, and chased,  
Ye o'erswept, deformed, defaced—  
    Like a flood.

The loftiest, or the least  
In the fight, or when it ceased;  
The fair virgin, or the priest,  
Did ye spare?  
Till now, by force and fraud,  
Human feeling is outlawed,  
And oppression stalks abroad,  
Bold and bare.

Ye plunderers of our plains !  
Ye exhausters of our veins,  
Ye firers of our fanes,  
If *I* be  
(For resistance when ye trod  
Flesh and spirit as the clod)  
A dark Felon before God,  
What are *ye* ?

If some tyrant's blood I spilt,  
On the tyrant is the guilt;  
If I met him hilt to hilt  
For my own :  
And—free me from this chain—  
I will dare you thus again,  
Though you gird with cannon train  
Me alone.

And this persisting zeal,  
Which all trampled men must feel,  
Will defy your fire and steel,  
Till ye yield

The plunder ye have gained,  
And the captives ye have chained,  
To a host—perchance untrained  
To the field.

Though my fate be in your hands,  
With my life's fast-falling sands,  
I will lay my stern commands  
    On my son ;  
By the honour of his wife,  
By his fame in death or life,  
To be faithful to this strife,  
    Till 'tis won !

*JAMES CLARENCE MANGAN.*

1803-1849.

[An Irish Nationalist poet, of wayward eccentric genius.]

## SOUL AND COUNTRY.

ARISE, my slumbering soul, arise !  
And learn what yet remains for thee  
    To dree or do !  
The signs are flaming in the skies ;  
A struggling world would yet be free,  
    And live anew.  
The earthquake hath not yet been born,  
That soon shall rock the lands around,  
    Beneath their base.  
Immortal Freedom's thunder-horn,  
As yet, yields but a doleful sound  
    To Europe's race.

Look round, my soul, and say and see  
If those about thee understand  
    Their mission here ;  
The will to smite, the power to slay,  
Abound in every heart and hand,  
    Afar, anear.

But, God ! must yet the conqueror's sword  
Pierce *mind*, as heart, in this proud year ?

Oh, dream it not !

It sounds a false blaspheming word,  
Begot and born of moral fear—  
And ill-begot !

To leave the world a name is nought;  
To leave a name for glorious deeds  
And works of love,

A name to waken lightning thought,  
And fire the soul of him who reads—  
*This* tells above.

Napoleon sinks to-day before  
The ungilded shrine, the single soul  
Of Washington;  
Truth's name, alone, shall man adore,  
Long as the waves of time shall roll  
Henceforward on !

My countrymen ! my words are weak,  
My health is gone, my soul is dark,

My heart is chill—

Yet would I fain and fondly seek  
To see you borne in Freedom's bark  
O'er ocean still.

Beseech your God, and bide your hour;  
He cannot, will not, long be dumb;  
Even now his tread

Is heard o'er earth with coming power;  
And coming, trust me, it will come,  
Else were he dead !

## A HIGHWAY FOR FREEDOM.

“ My suffering country shall be freed,  
And shine with tenfold glory ! ”  
So spake the gallant Winkelried,  
Renowned in German story.  
“ No tyrant, even of kingly grade,  
Shall cross or darken *my way* ! ”  
Out flashed his blade, and so he made  
For Freedom’s course a highway !

We want a man like this, with power  
To rouse the world by *one* word ;  
We want a chief to meet the hour,  
And march the masses onward.  
But chief or none, through blood and fire,  
My fatherland lies *thy way* !  
The men must fight who dare desire  
For Freedom’s course a highway !

Alas ! I can but idly gaze  
Around in grief and wonder ;  
The people’s will alone can raise  
The people’s shout of thunder.  
Too long, my friends, you faint for fear  
In secret crypt and by-way ;  
At last be men ! Stand forth and clear  
For Freedom’s course a highway !

You intersect wood, lea, and lawn,  
With roads for monster waggons,  
Wherein you speed like lightning, drawn  
By fiery iron dragons.  
So do. Such work is good, no doubt;  
But why not seek some nigh way  
For *mind* as well? Path also out  
For Freedom's course a highway.

Yes, up! and let your weapons be  
Sharp steel and self-reliance!  
Why waste your burning energy  
In void and vain defiance,  
And phrases fierce but fugitive?  
'Tis deeds, not words, that *I* weigh—  
Your swords and guns alone can give  
To Freedom's course a highway!

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## AN INVITATION.

FRIENDS to Freedom! is't not time  
That your course were shaped at length?  
Wherefore stand ye loitering here?  
Seek some healthier, holier clime,  
Where your souls may grow in strength,  
And whence Love has exiled Fear!

Europe—Southron, Saxon, Celt—  
Sits alone, in tattered robe.  
In our days she burns with none  
Of the lightning-life she felt,  
When Rome shook the troubled globe,  
Twenty centuries agone.

Deutschland sleeps; her star hath waned.  
France, the thunderess whilome, now  
Singeth small with bated breath.  
Spain is bleeding, Poland chained;  
Italy can but groan and vow.  
England lieth sick to death.

Cross with me the Atlantic's foam,  
And your genuine goal is won.  
Purely Freedom's breezes blow,  
Merrily Freedom's children roam  
By the doedal Amazon  
And the glorious Ohio.

Thither take not gems and gold.  
Nought from Europe's robber-hoards  
Must profane the Western Zones.  
Thither take ye spirits bold,  
Thither take ye ploughs and swords,  
And your father's buried bones.

Come!—if Liberty's true fires  
Burn within your bosoms, come!  
If ye would that in your graves  
Your free sons should bless their sires,  
Make the far green West your home,  
Cross with me the Atlantic's waves!

*THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE.*

1825—1868.

[One of the editors of the *Nation*, 1842. Escaped to America in 1848, where he became well known as a journalist; was elected a member of the Canadian Parliament, and assassinated in 1868.]

## THE REAPERS' SONG.

THE August sun is setting  
Like a fire behind the hills—  
'Twill rise again to see us free  
Of life or of its ills;  
For what is life but deadly strife  
That knows no truce or pause?  
And what is death but want of breath  
To curse their alien laws?  
Then a-shearing let us go, my boys,  
A-shearing let us go;  
On our own soil 'twill be no toil  
To lay the corn low.

The harvest that is growing  
Was given us by God—  
Praise be to Him, the sun and shower  
Work'd for us at his nod.  
The lords of earth, in gold and mirth,  
Ride on their ancient way,  
But could their smile have clothed the isle  
In such delight to-day?

"How will you go a-shearing,  
 Dear friends and neighbours all?"  
 "Oh, we will go with pike and gun  
 To have our own or fall;  
 We'll stack our arms and stack our corn  
 Upon the same wide plain;  
 We'll plant a guard in barn and yard,  
 And give them grape for grain."

God speed ye, gallant shearers,  
 May your courage never fail,  
 May you thrash your foes, and send the chaff  
 To England on the gale!  
 May you have a glorious harvest-home,  
 Whether I'm alive or no;  
 Your corn grows *here*—the foe comes *there*—  
 Or *it* or *he* must go.  
 Then a-shearing let us go, my boys,  
 A-shearing we will go;  
 On our own soil 'twill be no toil  
 To cut the corn low.

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### THE PILGRIMS OF LIBERTY.

BESIDE a river that I know, shrined in a laurel grove,  
 I see my idol—Liberty, that wears the smile of Love ;  
 Her face is toward the city, four paths are at her feet,  
 They bear her hymns from the four winds as rays  
 converging meet.

By the four paths I see approach my idol's votaries :  
Those from the highlands of the West, from Northern  
valleys these ;  
From Shannon shore and Slaney side yon other pilgrims  
throng :  
Oh ! wild around my idol's shrine will surge their  
mingled song.

And thither wends that wounded man, who bears the  
muffled sword  
Once borne by the comrade true his kindred heart  
adored ;  
The sacred stains upon the blade are drops of tyrant  
blood :  
He brings it now to Freedom's shrine, as loyal comrades  
should.

And thither wends the widow, with her fair son at her  
side,  
The banneret, whose eye is wet beneath his brow of  
pride ;  
The sable crape around the staff his father bore is  
roll'd—  
The shining Sun across the Green flings many a ray of  
gold.

The maiden with the funeral urn close gathered to her  
breast  
Goes thither to give up the heart she loved on earth the  
best ;  
She girt his sword and gave him for Ireland's holy  
fight—  
And once again to Liberty, Love yields her equal right.

The Artist, with his battle piece—the Poet, with his song—

The Student with his glowing heart, pour to the shrine along,

Where Liberty, my idol, sits on a shrine like snow,  
By a gliding river that I love, near a city that I know.

Oh, long around my idol's throne may bloom the laurel trees,

The ever green and ever glad, they laugh at blight and breeze—

True children of our hardy clime, long may they there be seen—

Like our nation's banners folded, as deathless and as green.

Oh, long may the four pathways join beneath my idol's feet,

And long may Ireland's mingled men before her altar meet;

Oh, long may man and maid and youth go votaries to the grove

Where reigns my idol, Liberty, that wears the smile of Love.

---

### UNION IS STRENGTH.

A MAN whose corn was carried away  
Before his eyes, and whose oats and hay  
Were piled up into the landlord's cart,  
Look'd toward his castle with sorrowful heart.

" You seem," said he, " so strong and grand,  
Like a giant you overlook the land ;  
And a giant in stomach you sure must be,  
That of all my crop can leave none to me."

Quoth another—" Of such weak words what end ?  
I Have you any hope that the devil will mend,  
Or the wolf let the kid escape his maw,  
Or a landlord yield his rights at law ?

" Let us go over to Rackrent Hall  
By twos and threes—it may befall,  
As wisdom is found in the multitude,  
Enough of us might do the cause some good."

At first they went by twos and threes,  
But Rackrent's lord they could not please ;  
And next they went in number a score,  
But the case was even the same as before.

By fifties and hundreds they gather'd then,  
Resolute, patient, dogged men,—  
And the landlord own'd that he thought there was  
Some slight defect in the present laws.

A barony spoke—a country woke—  
A nation struck at their feudal yoke—  
'Twas found the Right could not be withstood,  
And—wisdom was found in the multitude !

---

## THE GATHERING OF THE NATIONS.

GATHER together the nations ! proclaim the war to all :  
Armour and sword are girding in palace, tower, and  
hall ;  
The kings of the earth are donning their feudal mail  
again—  
Gather together the nations ! arouse and arm the men.

Who cometh out of the North ? 'Tis Russia's mighty  
Czar ;  
With giant hand he pointeth to a never-setting star ;  
The Cossack springs from his couch—the Tartar leaves  
his den !—  
Ho ! herald souls of Europe, arouse and arm the men.

What does the Frank at Rome, with the Russian at the  
Rhine ?  
And Albion, pallid as her cliffs, shows neither soul nor  
sign ;  
Pope Pius sickeneth daily, in the foul Sicilian fen—  
Ho ! wardens of the world's strongholds, arouse and arm  
the men.

The future circleth nearer on its grey portentous wings,  
Pale are the cheeks of princes, and sore afraid are  
kings !—  
Once faced by the furious nations, they'll flee in fear,  
and then,  
By the right divine of the fittest, we shall have the reign  
of Men.

## RICHARD DALTON WILLIAMS.

1822—1862.

[One of the poets and patriots of the Young Ireland movement, and a contributor to the *Nation*. He emigrated to America in 1851.]

## THE PATRIOT BRAVE.

I DRINK to the valiant who combat  
For freedom by mountain or wave ;  
And may triumph attend, like a shadow,  
The sword of the patriot brave !  
Oh, never was holier chalice  
Than this at our festivals crowned —  
The heroes of Morven to pledge it,  
And gods of Valhalla, float round.  
Hurrah for the patriot brave !  
A health to the patriot brave !  
And a curse and a blow be to liberty's foe,  
Whether tyrant, or coward, or knave.

O Liberty, hearts that adore thee  
Pour out their best blood at thy shrine,  
As freely as gushes before thee  
This purple libation of wine.  
For us, whether destined to triumph,  
Or bleed as Leonidas bled,  
Crushed down by a forest of lances  
On mountains of foreigner dead —  
May we sleep with the patriot brave !  
God prosper the patriot brave !  
But may battle and woe hurry liberty's foe  
To a bloody and honourless grave !

**“SLIABH CUILINN.”**

[The spirited poems published in the *Nation*, under the *nom-de-plume* of “Sliabh Cuilinn,” are generally attributed to John O’Hagan, the late Judge.]

**PADDIES EVERMORE.**

THE hour is past to fawn or crouch  
 As suppliants for our right;  
 Let word and deed unshrinking vouch  
 The banded millions’ might :  
 Let them who scorned the fountain rill,  
 Now dread the torrent’s roar,  
 And hear our echoed chorus still,  
 We’re Paddies evermore.

Look round—the Frenchman governs France,  
 The Spaniard rules in Spain,  
 The gallant Pole but waits his chance  
 To break the Russian chain ;  
 The strife for Freedom here begun  
 We never will give o’er,  
 Nor own a land on earth but one—  
 We’re Paddies evermore.

What reck we though six hundred years  
 Have o’er our thralldom rolled,  
 The soul that roused O’Conor’s spears  
 Still lives as true and bold ;

The tide of foreign power to stem  
Our fathers bled of yore,  
And here we stand to-day, like them,  
True Paddies evermore.

Where's our allegiance? With the land  
For which they nobly died;  
Our duty? By our cause to stand,  
Whatever chance betide;  
Our cherished hope? To heal the woes  
That rankle at her core;  
Our scorn and hatred? To her foes,  
Like Paddies evermore.



PART III.



*WALT WHITMAN.*

1819—1892.

## “FOR YOU, O DEMOCRACY.”

COME, I will make the continent indissoluble,  
I will make the most splendid race the sun ever shone  
upon,  
I will make divine magnetic lands,  
    With the love of comrades,  
    With the life-long love of comrades.

I will plant companionship thick as trees along all the  
rivers of America, and along the shores of the great  
lakes, and all over the prairies,  
I will make inseparable cities with their arms about each  
other's necks,  
    By the love of comrades,  
    By the manly love of comrades.

For you these from me, O Democracy, to serve you, ma  
femme!  
For you, for you I am trilling these songs.

---

## EUROPE.

The seventy-second and seventy-third years of these States.  
(1848, 1849.)

SUDDENLY, out of its stale and drowsy lair, the lair of  
slaves,  
Like lightning it le'pt forth half startled at itself,  
Its feet upon the ashes and the rags, its hands tight to  
the throats of kings.

O hope and faith !  
O aching close of exiled patriots' lives !  
O many a sicken'd heart !  
Turn back unto this day and make yourselves afresh.

And you, paid to defile the People—you liars, mark !  
Not for numberless agonies, murders, lusts,  
For court thieving in its manifold mean forms, worming  
from his simplicity the poor man's wages,  
For many a promise sworn by royal lips and broken and  
laugh'd at in the breaking,  
Then in their power not for all these did the blows strike  
revenge, or the heads of the nobles fall ;  
The People scorn'd the ferocity of kings.

But the sweetness of mercy brew'd bitter destruction,  
and the frighten'd monarchs come back,  
Each comes in state with his train, hangman, priest, tax-  
gatherer,  
Soldier, lawyer, lord, jailer, and sycophant.

Yet behind all lowering stealing, lo, a shape,  
Vague as the night, draped interminably, head, front and  
form, in scarlet folds,  
Whose face and eyes none may see,  
Out of its robes only this, the red robes lifted by the  
arm,  
One finger crook'd pointed high over the top, like the  
head of a snake appears.

Meanwhile corpses lie in new-made graves, bloody  
corpses of young men,  
The rope of the gibbet hangs heavily, the bullets of  
princes are flying, the creatures of power laugh  
aloud,  
And all these things bear fruits, and they are good.

Those corpses of young men,  
Those martyrs that hang from the gibbet, those hearts  
pierc'd by the gray lead,  
Cold and motionless as they seem, live elsewhere with  
unslaughter'd vitality.

They live in other young men, O kings !  
They live in brothers again ready to defy you,  
They were purified by death, they were taught and  
exalted.

Not a grave of the murder'd for freedom but grows seed  
for freedom, in its turn to bear seed,  
Which the winds carry afar and re-sow, and the rains  
and the snows nourish.

Not a disembodied spirit can the weapons of tyrants let loose,  
But it stalks invisibly over the earth, whispering, counseling,  
cautioning.

Liberty, let others despair of you—I never despair of you.

Is the house shut? is the master away?  
Nevertheless, be ready, be not weary of watching,  
He will soon return, his messengers come anon.

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#### TO A FOIL'D EUROPEAN REVOLUTIONAIRE.

COURAGE yet, my brother or my sister!  
Keep on—Liberty is to be subserv'd whatever occurs;  
That is nothing that is quell'd by one or two failures, or  
any number of failures,  
Or by the indifference or ingratitude of the people, or by  
any unfaithfulness,  
Or the show of the tushes of power, soldiers, cannon,  
penal statutes.

What we believe in waits latent forever through all the continents,  
Invites no one, promises nothing, sits in calmness and light, is positive and composed, knows no discouragement,  
Waiting patiently, waiting its time.

(Not songs of loyalty alone are these,  
But songs of insurrection also,  
For I am the sworn poet of every dauntless rebel the  
world over,  
And he going with me leaves peace and routine behind  
him,  
And stakes his life to be lost at any moment.)

The battle rages with many a loud alarm and frequent  
advance and retreat,  
The infidel triumphs, or supposes he triumphs,  
The prison, scaffold, garrote, handcuffs, iron necklace,  
and lead-balls do their work,  
The named and unnamed heroes pass to other spheres,  
The great speakers and writers are exiled, they lie sick in  
distant lands,  
The cause is asleep, the strongest throats are choked with  
their own blood,  
The young men droop their eyelashes towards the ground  
when they meet ;  
But for all this Liberty has not gone out of the place, nor  
the infidel enter'd into full possession.  
When liberty goes out of a place it is not the first to go,  
nor the second or third to go,  
It waits for all the rest to go, it is the last.

When there are no more memories of heroes and martyrs,  
And when all life and all the souls of men and women  
are discharged from any part of the earth,  
Then only shall liberty or the idea of liberty be discharged  
from that part of the earth,  
And the infidel come into full possession.

Then courage, European revolter, revoltress !  
For till all ceases neither must you cease.

I do not know what you are for, (I do not know what I  
am for myself, nor what anything is for,) But I will search carefully for it even in being foil'd,  
In defeat, poverty, misconception, imprisonment—for  
they too are great.

Did we think victory great?  
So it is—but now it seems to me, when it cannot be  
help'd, that defeat is great,  
And that death and dismay are great.

---

### RISE, O DAYS, FROM YOUR FATHOMLESS DEEPS.

#### I.

RISE, O days, from your fathomless deeps, till you loftier,  
fiercer sweep !  
Long for my soul hungering gymnastic I devour'd what  
the earth gave me,  
Long I roam'd the woods of the north, long I watch'd  
Niagara pouring,  
I travel'd the prairies over and slept on their breast, I  
cross'd the Nevadas, I cross'd the plateaus,  
I ascended the towering rocks along the Pacific, I sail'd  
out to sea,  
I sail'd through the storm, I was refresh'd by the storm,  
I watch'd with joy the threatening maws of the waves,  
I mark'd the white combs where they career'd so high,  
curling over,  
I heard the wind piping, I saw the black clouds,

Saw from below what arose and mounted, (O superb, O  
wild as my heart, and powerful !)  
Heard the continuous thunder as it bellow'd after the  
lightning,  
Noted the slender and jagged threads of lightning as  
sudden and fast amid the din they chased each other  
across the sky ;  
These, and such as these, I, elate, saw—saw with  
wonder, yet pensive and masterful,  
All the menacing might of the globe uprisen around me,  
Yet there with my soul I fed, I fed content, supercilious.

## II.

'Twas well, O soul—'twas a good preparation you gave  
me,  
Now we advance our latent and ampler hunger to fill,  
Now we go forth to receive what the earth and the sea  
never gave us,  
Not through the mighty woods we go, but through the  
mightier cities,  
Something for us is pouring now more than Niagara  
pouring,  
Torrents of men, (sources and rills of the North-west, are  
you indeed inexhaustible ?)  
What, to pavements and homesteads here, what were  
those storms of the mountain and sea ?  
What, to passions I witness around me to-day, was the  
sea risen ?  
Was the wind piping the pipe of death under the black  
clouds ?  
Lo ! from deeps more unfathomable, something more  
deadly and savage,

Manhattan rising, advancing with menacing front—Cincinnati, Chicago, unchain'd ;  
What was that swell I saw on the ocean ? behold what comes here,  
How it climbs with daring feet and hands—how it dashes !  
How the true thunder bellows after the lightning—how bright the flashes of lightning !  
How Democracy with desperate vengeful port strides on, shown through the dark by those flashes of lightning !  
(Yet a mournful wail and low sob I fancied I heard through the dark,  
In a lull of the deafening confusion.)

## III.

Thunder on ! stride on, Democracy ! strike with vengeful stroke !  
And do you rise higher than ever yet, O days, O cities !  
Crash heavier, heavier yet, O storms ! you have done me good,  
My soul prepared in the mountains absorbs your immortal strong nutriment,  
Long had I walk'd my cities, my country roads through farms, only half satisfied,  
One doubt nauseous undulating like a snake, crawl'd on the ground before me,  
Continually preceding my steps, turning upon me oft, ironically hissing low ;  
The cities I loved so well I abandon'd and left, I sped to the certainties suitable to me,  
Hungering, hungering, hungering, for primal energies and Nature's dauntlessness,

I refresh'd myself with it only, I could relish it only,  
I waited the bursting forth of the pent fire—on the water  
and air I waited long ;  
But now I no longer wait, I am fully satisfied, I am  
glutted,  
I have witness'd the true lightning, I have witness'd my  
cities electric,  
I have lived to behold man burst forth and warlike  
America rise,  
Hence I will seek no more the food of the northern solitary  
wilds,  
No more the mountains roam or sail the stormy sea.

---

## TURN, O LIBERTAD.

TURN, O Libertad, for the war is over,  
From it and all henceforth expanding, doubting no more,  
resolute, sweeping the world,  
Turn from lands retrospective recording proofs of the  
past,  
From the singers that sing the trailing glories of the past,  
From the chants of the feudal world, the triumphs of  
kings, slavery, caste,  
Turn to the world, the triumphs reserv'd and to come—  
give up that backward world,  
Leave to the singers of hitherto, give them the trailing  
past,  
But what remains, remains for singers for you—wars to  
come are for you,  
(Lo, how the wars of the past have duly inured to you,  
and the wars of the present also inure ;)

Then turn, and be not alarm'd, O Libertad—turn your  
undying face,  
To where the future, greater than all the past,  
Is swiftly, surely preparing for you.

---

### THE GREAT CITY.

A GREAT city is that which has the greatest men and women,  
If it be a few ragged huts it is still the greatest city in the whole world.

The place where a great city stands is not the place of stretch'd wharves, docks, manufactures, deposits of produce merely,  
Nor the place of ceaseless salutes of new-comers, or the anchor-lifters of the departing,  
Nor the place of the tallest and costliest buildings or shops selling goods from the rest of the earth,  
Nor the place of the best libraries and schools, nor the place where money is plentious,  
Nor the place of the most numerous population.

Where the city stands with the brawniet breed of orators and bards,  
Where the city stands that is beloved by these, and loves them in return and understands them,  
Where no monuments exist to heroes but in the common words and deeds,  
Where thrift is in its place, and prudence is in its place,

Where the men and women think lightly of the laws,  
Where the slave ceases, and the master of slaves ceases,  
Where the populace rise at once against the never-ending  
    audacity of elected persons,  
Where fierce men and women pour forth as the sea to the  
    whistle of death pours its sweeping and unript  
        waves,  
Where outside authority enters always after the pre-  
    cedence of inside authority,  
Where the citizen is always the head and ideal, and  
    President, Mayor, Governor, and what not, are  
        agents for pay,  
Where children are taught to be laws to themselves, and  
    to depend on themselves,  
Where equanimity is illustrated in affairs,  
Where speculations on the soul are encouraged,  
Where women walk in public processions in the streets  
    the same as the men,  
Where they enter the public assembly and take places the  
    same as the men;  
Where the city of the faithfullest friends stands,  
Where the city of the cleanliness of the sexes stands,  
Where the city of the healthiest fathers stands,  
Where the city of the best-bodied mothers stands,  
There the great city stands.

*W. C. BENNETT.*

THE SLAVER'S WRECK.

A HINT TO CERTAIN EMPERORS.

Ho ! godless madmen at the helm,  
    Ho ! slavers on the deck,  
Your bark the waves will overwhelm,  
    Your curst ship goes to wreck;  
So let it be ; ship sea on sea ;  
    Right through the breakers go ;  
The rocks that wreck you will but free  
    Your prison'd slaves below.

God-doom'd, your onward course you shape  
    With all the skill you can ;  
His vengeance long you will not 'scape,  
    Foul fetterers of man !  
Godless, accurst—right plain we see  
    You to destruction go ;  
Who cares ? The rocks that wreck you free  
    Your prison'd slaves below.

Hark ! madmen, through the thickening gloom  
    I hear the surf's deep roar ;  
How fast, all reckless of your doom,  
    You drive towards the shore.

Ho ! breakers left and right I see,  
 Ahead they're white as snow.  
 Who cares ? The rocks that wreck you free  
 Your prison'd slaves below.

Ah ! did you care my course to try,  
 You might at danger scoff ;  
 Your bondsmen's help with freedom buy ;  
 Quick ! strike their fetters off !  
 But, while they're slaves, no help they'll be :  
 Too well, ere this, they know  
 The rocks that wreck their masters free  
 Their prison'd slaves below.

1856.

## THE RIGHT ABOVE THE WRONG.

## THE HOPE OF THE PEOPLE.

I HEAR them say, " By all this stir  
 What do the people gain ?  
 Their despots' slaves of old they were,  
 Their slaves they still remain."  
 But God will right the people yet,  
 Although the struggle's long ;  
 Yes, friends, we've faith that God will set  
 The right above the wrong.

" See France," they say, " what has she won  
 By all her bloody past ?  
 She ends the same as she begun,  
 A tyrant's toy at last."

Yet Heaven her woe will not forget,  
She'll up again ere long;  
For her we've faith that God will set  
The right above the wrong.

“No more your Hungary's battle-peals  
O'er listening Europe roll;  
Securely gagg'd and chain'd, she feels  
The iron in her soul.”  
Does she her battle-fields forget,  
Triumphant once so long?  
She waits—for her, too, God will set  
The right above the wrong.

“Milan, too, rose in 'forty-eight,  
And tore her chains away,  
To curse again her children's fate—  
The Austrian's scorn to-day.”  
Her three days she remembers yet,  
And still her hope is strong,  
Ere long her God for her will set  
The right above the wrong.

“Look, at its triple despot's feet,  
Their victim, Poland, lies;  
Who knows if still its free heart beat,  
Or heeds its dying cries?”  
Ah! God its cries will not forget;  
Though Poland suffer long,  
We've faith that God for her will set  
The right above the wrong.

Yes ; gagg'd and chain'd the nations lie,  
And wrong and vengeance reign ;  
To God goes up the bitter cry  
That will not rise in vain.  
The people watch, and wait, and let  
Their living hope be strong—  
Who doubts but God at last will set  
The right above the wrong ?

1857.

*JAMES THOMSON ("B.V.")*.

1837—1882.

### THE AWAKENING OF ITALY.

(FROM "THE DEAD YEAR," 1861.)

A NATION long was trodden in the dust  
'Neath various and discordant tyrannies,  
Until it seemed embruted to the lust  
Of its base despots,—mortgaging for these  
The priceless fame of olden centuries;  
And, like the wretchedest of Circe's swine,  
Drugging its all-sick soul with sensual wine.

This nation is aroused from shore to shore ;  
The drunken lethargy is passed away,  
The drunken frenzies vex its soul no more.  
The night is gone ; the sullen lingering grey  
Consumes in fires of the advancing day,  
Whose crimson dawn shall have an azure noon :  
This people rise, to labour for its boon.

The dreamer graspseth firmly Action's sword ;  
The coward plunges smiling down the grave,  
To drag down with him tyranny abhorred ;  
The meanest miser and self-seeking knave  
Give all up for their country ; the poor slave  
Of superstition dares to see the truth ;  
The long oppressed is full of gentle ruth.

Whence hath been poured this great electric thrill,  
 Of God-like power to quicken every stone  
 With life and soul, with hope and strength and will?—  
 Throughout that air, long filled with hopeless moan,  
 A living Voice was heard supreme and lone,  
 Calm as the heavens and mighty as the sea,  
*Arise, arise, Italia, one and free!*

. . . . .

How has such fruit by such a year been borne?  
 How has this Italy, in sheer despite  
 Of foes whose legions laughed her arms to scorn,  
 Of friends as false in heart as great in might,  
 Of statesmen plotting wrongs to help the right,  
 Of Europe selfish, of herself distract,  
 Brought out her grand idea into fact?

She has two noble sons; by these she *is*.  
 The Thinker; \* who, inspired from earliest youth,  
 In want and pain, in exile's miseries,  
 'Mid alien scorn, 'mid foes that knew not ruth,  
 Has ever preached his spirit's inmost truth;  
 Though friends waxed cold or turned their love to  
 hate,  
 Though even now his country is ingrate.

The Doer, † whose high fame as purely shines  
 As his, who‡ heretofore Sicilia won  
 With victories flowing free as Homer's lines.  
 Sublime in action when the strife is on,  
 Sublime in pity when the strife is done;  
 A pure and lofty spirit, blest from sight  
 Of meaner nature's selfishness and spite.

\* Mazzini.

† Garibaldi.

‡ Timoleon.

Therefore, O Fathers, my best symbol see,  
 Noble in meanness, rent and stained with gore:  
 To future Romans this Red Shirt shall be  
 As was that Leathern Apron\* borne of yore  
 To all the glittering pomp of Persian war.

If any hope despite the Past may be,  
*Italia shall be one, great, glorious, free!*

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### A POLISH INSURGENT.

WHAT would you have? said I;  
 'Tis so easy to go and die,  
 'Tis so hard to stay and live,  
 In this alien peace and this comfort callous,  
 Where only the murderers get the gallows,  
 Where the jails are for rogues who thieve.

'Tis so easy to go and die,  
 Where our Country, our Mother, the Martyr,  
 Moaning in bonds doth lie,  
 Bleeding with stabs in her breast,  
 Her throat with a foul clutch prest,  
 Under the thrice-accursed Tartar.

But Smith, your man of sense,  
 Ruddy, and broad, and round—like so!  
 Kindly, but dense, but dense,

\* The famous Apron of Gavah the Smith, which Feridoon adopted for the banner of Iran.

Said to me: "Do not go:  
It is hopeless ; right is wrong;  
The tyrant is too strong."

Must a man have *hope* to fight ?  
Can a man not fight in despair ?  
Must the soul cower down for the body's weakness,  
And slaver the devil's hoof with meekness,  
Nor care nor dare to share  
Certain defeat with the right ?

They do not know us, my Mother !  
They know not our love, our hate !  
And how we would die with each other,  
Embracing proud and elate,  
Rather than live apart  
In peace with shame in the heart.

No hope !—If a heavy anger  
Our God hath treasured against us long,  
His lightning-shafts from his thunder-clangour  
Raining a century down :  
We have loved when we went most wrong ;  
He cannot for ever frown.

No hope !—We can haste to be killed,  
That the tale of the victims get filled ;  
The more of the debt we pay,  
The less on our sons shall weigh :  
This star through the baleful rack of the cope  
Burns red ; red is our hope.

O our Mother, thou art noble and fair !  
Fair and proud and chaste, thou Queen !  
Chained and stabbed in the breast,  
Thy throat with a foul clutch prest ;  
Yet around thee how coarse, how mean,  
Are these rich shopwives who stare !

Art thou moaning, O our Mother, through the  
swoon  
Of thine agony of desolation ?—  
“ Do my sons still love me? or can they stand  
Gazing afar from a foreign land,  
Loving more peace and gold—the boon  
Of a people strange, of a sordid nation ? ”

O our Mother, moan not thus !  
We love you as you love us,  
And our hearts are wild with thy sorrow :  
If we cannot save thee, we are blest  
Who can die on thy sacred bleeding breast.—  
So we left Smith-Land on the morrow,  
And we hasten across the West.

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#### DESPOTISM TEMPERED BY DYNAMITE.

THERE is no other title in the world  
So proud as mine, who am no law-cramped king,  
No mere imperial monarch absolute,  
The WHITE TSAR worshipped as a visible God,  
As Lord of Heaven no less than Lord of Earth—  
I look with terror to my crowning day.

Through half of Europe my dominions spread,  
And then through half of Asia to the shores  
Of Earth's great ocean washing the New World ;  
And nothing bounds them to the Northern Pole,  
They merge into the everlasting ice—

I look with terror to my crowning day.

Full eighty million subjects worship me—  
Their father, high priest, monarch, God on earth ;  
My children who but hold their lives with mine  
For our most Holy Russia dear and great,  
Whose might is concentrated in my hands—

I look with terror to my crowning day.

I chain and gag with chains and gags of iron  
The impious hands and mouths that dare express  
A word against my sacred sovereignty ;  
The half of Asia is my prison-house,  
Myriads of convicts lost in its Immense—

I look with terror to my crowning day.

I cannot chain and gag the evil thoughts  
Of men and women poisoned by the West,  
Frenzied in soul by the anarchic West ;  
These thoughts transmute themselves to dynamite ;  
My sire was borne all shattered to his tomb—

I look with terror to my crowning day.

My peasants rise to their unvarying toil,  
And go to sleep outworned by their toil,  
Without the hope of any better life.  
But with no hope they have no deadly fear,  
They sleep and eat their scanty food in peace—

I look with terror to my crowning day.

My palaces are prisons to myself ;  
I taste no food that may not poison me ;  
I plant no footprint sure it will not stir  
Instant destruction of explosive fire ;  
I look with terror to each day and night—  
With tenfold terror to my crowning day.

*JOAQUIN MILLER.*

## SOPHIE PEROVSKAYA.

## TO THE CZAR.

DOWN from her high estate she stept,  
A maiden, gently born,  
And by the icy Volga kept  
Sad watch, and waited morn ;  
And peasants say that where she slept  
The new moon dipped her horn.

*Yet on and on, through shoreless snows  
Far tow'rd the bleak north pole,  
The foulest wrong the good God knows  
Rolled as dark rivers roll ;  
While never once for all these woes  
Upspake one human soul.*

She toiled, she taught the peasant, taught  
The dark-eyed Tartar. He,  
Illumined with her lofty thought,  
Rose up and sought to be,  
What God at the creation wrought,  
A man—godlike and free.

*Yet still before him yawned the black  
 Siberian mines ! And oh,  
 The knout upon the bare white back !  
 The blood upon the snow !  
 The gaunt wolves, close upon the track,  
 Fought o'er the fallen so !*

And this that one might wear a crown  
 Snatched from a strangled sire !  
 And this that two might mock or frown  
 From high thrones climbing higher,—  
 To where the Parricide looks down  
 With harlot in desire !  
*Yet on, beneath the great north star,  
 Like some lost, living thing,  
 That long dread line stretched black and far,  
 Till buried by death's wing !  
 And great men praised the goodly Czar—  
 But God sat pitying.*

A storm burst forth ! From out the storm  
 The clean, red lightning leapt !  
 And lo ! a prostrate royal form . . .  
 And Alexander slept !  
 Down through the snow, all smoking warm,  
 Like any blood, his crept.  
*Yea, one lay dead, for millions dead !  
 One red spot in the snow  
 For one long damning line of red :  
 While endless exiles go—  
 The babe at breast, the mother's head  
 Bowed down, and dying so !*

And did a woman do this deed ?

Then build her scaffold high,  
That all may on her forehead read

The martyr's right to die !

Ring Cossack round on royal steed !

Now lift her to the sky !

*But see ! From out the black hood shines*

*A light few look upon !*

*Lorn exiles, see, from dark deep mines,*

*A star at burst of dawn ! . . .*

*A thud—a creak of hangman's lines—*

*A frail shape jerked and drawn !*

The Czar is dead ; the woman dead,

About her neck a cord.

In God's house rests his royal head,—

Hers in a place abhor'd ;

Yet I had rather have her bed

Than thine, most royal lord !

*Yea, rather be that woman dead*

*Than thee, dead-living Czar,*

*To hide in dread, with both hands red,*

*Behind great bolt and bar—*

*You may control to the North Pole,*

*But God still guides his star.*

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## RIEL: THE REBEL.

[Louis Riel was executed in 1885 for leading an insurrection of Franco-Indians in the north-west of Canada.]

HE died at dawn in the land of snows,  
A priest at the left, a priest at the right ;  
The doomed man praying for his pitiless foes,  
And each priest holding a low dim light,  
To pray for the soul of the dying.  
But Windsor Castle was far away,  
And Windsor Castle was never so gay  
With her gorgeous banners flying !

The hero was hung in the windy dawn—  
'Twas splendidly done, the telegraph said ;  
A creak of the neck, then the shoulders drawn ;  
A heave of the breast—and the man hung dead,  
And, oh ! never such valiant dying !  
While Windsor Castle was far away  
With its fops and fools on that windy day,  
And its thousand banners flying !

Some starving babes where a stark stream flows  
'Twixt windy banks by an Indian town,  
A frenzied mother in the freezing snows,  
While softly the pitying snow came down  
To cover the dead and the dying.  
But Windsor Castle was gorgeous and gay  
With lion banners that windy day—  
With lying banners flying.

*JOHN BEDFORD LENO.*

## THE NAME OF LIBERTY.

'TWAS shouted aloud at Marathon,  
    'Twas the cry at Thermopylæ,  
The name that lit the fiery cross  
    That passed from sea to sea,  
And gathered the clans whom gallant Bruce  
    Led on to victory.

'Tis a name that fires the souls of men,  
    And teaches them to dare,  
Inspired the brave Von Winkelried  
    To rush on the foeman's spear,  
And struck the tyrant, Gessler, down,  
    With palsy and with fear.

It was breathed on the Mayflower's crowded deck  
    When she sailed from old England's shore;  
It cheered on the braves of Commonwealth  
    When they conquered at Marston Moor,  
And rang when the patriot Hampden fell  
    At the height of the battle's roar.

It sounded on Warsaw's blood-stained walls,  
    On Italia's broad campaign,  
On the marshy soil of the Netherlands,  
    'Mid the vine-clad hills of Spain;  
And rang aloud when France was swept  
    By a blood-red hurricane.

It was heard when Venice was pressed in fight,  
    When Croat and Magyar met,  
When the red shirts conquered in Sicily,  
    When the sun of Austria set,  
The name of my love's resounded loud  
    To the beat of the castanet.

'Tis a name well-known as a rallying cry,  
    And blessed with a magic spell;  
A name that rose from the shattered host  
    When Kosciusko fell—  
The name of the shrine where Hofer knelt—  
    The beacon light of Tell !

*EDWARD H. GUILLAUME.*

FREETHOUGHT.

GREAT word, that fill'st my mind with calm delight,  
I love to feel, but cannot hope to tell,  
How, like the noonday sun, thou dost dispel  
The mists of error that impede our sight !  
What noble dreams, what yearning hopes excite !  
What memories too awake at sound of thee,  
Like myriad ripples on a wind-swept sea !  
How full and irresistible thy might !  
Thou causest to grow pale the tyrant's cheek ;  
Thou art the knell that loud proclaims the fall  
Of despots and of priests, and those who seek  
To crush the human mind beneath their thrall :  
Thou dost avenge all wrong, make strong the weak—  
Nobility and heritage of all !

*ROBERT BUCHANAN.*

THE PERFECT STATE.

(FROM "THE DRAMA OF KINGS.")

WHERE is the perfect State  
Early most blest and late,  
    Perfect and bright?  
'Tis where no Palace stands  
Trembling on shifting sands  
    Morning and night.  
'Tis where the soil is free,  
Where, far as eye may see,  
Scattered o'er hill and lea,  
    Homesteads abound;  
Where clean and broad and sweet  
(Market, square, lane, and street,  
Belted by leagues of wheat),  
    Cities are found.

Where is the perfect State  
Early most blest and late,  
    Gentle and good?  
'Tis where no lives are seen  
Huddling in lanes unclean,  
    Crying for food;

'Tis where the home is pure,  
'Tis where the bread is sure,  
'Tis where the wants are fewer,  
    And each want fed;  
Where plenty and peace abide,  
Where health dwells heavenly-eyed,  
Where in nooks beautified  
    Slumber the dead.

Where is the perfect State,  
Unvexed by Wrath and Hate,  
    Quiet and just?  
Where to no form of creed  
Fetter'd are thought and deed,  
    Reason and trust?  
'Tis where the great free mart  
Broadens, while from its heart  
Forth the great ships depart  
    Blown by the wind;  
'Tis where the wise men's eyes,  
Fixed on the earth and skies,  
Seeking for signs, devise  
    Good for mankind.

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## THE LIGHT OF FREEDOM.

LIGHT on the brow  
    Of the hill of Time,  
What light art thou,  
Whither all men now  
    Turn eyes and climb?

Still gleaming afar,  
While the wild days go,  
Still shining a Star  
    In the region of snow :  
We crave thee, we cry for thee,  
We faint and we sigh for thee,—  
    Thou shonest above,—  
Yea, we dare die for thee,  
    Light that we love.

Not yet, O Light,  
    Alas, not yet,  
May we reach the height  
Where dim and bright  
    Thy lamp is set,—  
Like waves we whiten  
    In the waste below,  
We darken and brighten,  
    We ebb and we flow :  
Dim stretch the heights above  
All days and nights above,—  
    Past the storms stream,—  
Light of all lights above,  
    Art thou a dream ?

No dream, O far  
    Sweet Light and strange !  
Not as dreams are,  
But a thronéd Star  
    That doth not change !  
O'er the world thou hast gleamed  
    Since the first dim day :  
Dreams have been dream'd  
    And have passed away,

All dreams have burn'd to thee,  
All days have turn'd to thee,  
O Liberty !  
And as all have yearned to thee,  
We yearn and see !

On the mountain's brow,  
Dimly discern'd,  
What Light art thou,  
Whither all turn now  
As they ever turn'd ?—  
The great earth flowers to thee,  
The earth's tongues name thee,  
All things, all hours, to thee  
Upturn, and claim thee ;—  
And the world's waves wail for thee,  
And our cheeks flash pale for thee,  
Yet art thou sure—  
And though all hopes fail for thee,  
Thou shalt endure !

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## TOM DUNSTAN; OR, THE POLITICIAN.

## HOW LONG, O LORD, HOW LONG?

Now poor Tom Dunstan's cold,  
All life grows duller ;  
There's a blight on young and old,  
And our talk has lost its bold  
Red-republican colour !

Poor Tom was crippled and thin,  
But, Lord, if you'd seen his face,  
When, sick of the country's sin,  
With bang of the fist, and chin  
    Stuck out, he argued the case !  
He prophesied men should be free,  
    And the money-bags be bled !  
“ She's coming, she's coming ! ” said he ;  
“ Courage, boys ! wait and see !  
    *Freedom's ahead !* ”

Cross-legg'd on the board we sat,  
Like spiders spinning,  
Stitching and sweating, while fat  
Old Moses, with eyes like a cat,  
    Sat greasily grinning ;  
And here Tom said his say,  
    And prophesied Tyranny's death ;  
And the tallow burned all day,  
And we stitch'd and stitch'd away  
    In the thick smoke of our breath.  
Poor worn-out slops were we,  
    With hearts as heavy as lead ;  
But “ Patience ! she's coming ! ” said he ;  
“ Courage, boys ! wait and see !  
    *Freedom's ahead !* ”

• • •

But Tom was little and weak,  
The hard hours shook him ;  
Hollower grew his cheek,  
And when he began to speak  
    The coughing took him.

And at last the cheery sound  
    Of his voice among us ceased,  
And we made a purse, all round,  
    That he mightn't starve, at least.  
His pain was awful to see,  
    Yet there, on his poor sick-bed,  
“ She's coming, in spite of me !  
Courage, and wait ! ” cried he ;  
    “ *Freedom's ahead !* ”

Ay, now Tom Dunstan's cold,  
    All life seems duller ;  
There's a blight on young and old,  
    And our talk has lost the bold  
        Red-republican colour.  
But we see a figure grey,  
    And we hear a voice of death,  
And the tallow burns all day,  
    And we stitch and stitch away  
        In the thick smoke of our breath ;  
Ay, while in the dark sit we,  
    Tom seems to call from the dead—  
“ She's coming ! she's coming ! ” says he ;  
“ Courage, boys ! wait and see !  
    *Freedom's ahead !* ”

*THE HON. RODEN NOEL*

ARISE !

A SONG OF LABOUR.

[Written on the formation of Unions for agricultural labourers.]

FROM the long sleep of centuries,  
Rise, arise !  
Ye will be men at last, not slaves,  
From your cradles to your graves;  
Life is dawning in your eyes;  
Arise !

Weary children of the soil,  
Who toil and toil !  
Patient millions of night,  
Turn worn faces to the light,  
Piteous hunger in dim eyes,  
Arise !

Miserable, dumb, and blind,  
Of humankind !  
With divinest discontent  
Stony souls at last are rent,

Human souls immersed and bowed  
In the dark dull earth ye ploughed !

From brute suffering ye break ;  
Awake !

Murmur men who ruled you, scared :

“ What ! ye dared,  
Doltish bovine bondsmen, ye !  
To claim, with accents of the free,  
For yourselves, and babes, and wives,  
Human lives ! ”

Mummied princeling of the past,  
Ecclesiast,  
Shopman, overshadowing shires,  
Dining delegates, and squires,  
A moneyed mob aghast and pale,  
Rant and rail :

“ Who *told* you, scum of all the earth !  
And dashed our mirth ?  
Who *told* you, rebels, that ye grovel  
Hungry and cold in many a hovel,  
Or that the famine of your wage  
Tortures old age ?

“ Who told you ? let him drown for this,  
With our bliss !  
We, though we leave you ignorant,  
Lest ye behold a yawning want,  
Doled you gracious doles, and gave  
Ghostly cheer to keep you brave ;  
Yea, paupers, and we dug your grave !  
Ye rave ! ”

Stalwart, sturdy sons of toil,  
    Ne'er recoil !  
Dare they threaten violence ?  
Form your phalanx deep and dense !  
What though tyrants always cry,  
When God consumes their tyranny,  
“ Dare not rouse you from your swound ;  
Heaven’s order ye confound ! ”  
    Never fear ; be calm, be wise !  
    Holy fire inflame your eyes !  
God shall smite your enemies :  
    Arise !

*JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.*

1844—1890.

## RESURGITE!

Now, for the faith that is in ye,  
Polander, Sclav, and Kelt !  
Prove to the world what the lips have hurled  
The hearts have grandly felt.

Rouse, ye races in shackles !  
See, in the East, the glare  
Is red in the sky, and the warning cry  
Is sounding—“ Awake ! Prepare !”

A voice from the spheres—a hand downreached  
To hands that would be free,  
To rend the gyes from the fettered lives  
That strain toward Liberty !

Greece ! to the grasp of heroes,  
Flashed with thine ancient pride,  
Thy swords advance : in the passing chance  
The great of heart are tried.

Poland ! thy lance-heads brighten :  
The Tartar has swept thy name  
From the schoolman's chart, but the patriot's heart  
Preserves its lines in flame.

Ireland ! mother of dolors,  
The trial on thee descends :  
Who quailèth in fear when the test is near,  
His bondage never ends.

Oppression, that kills the craven,  
Defied, is the freeman's good :  
No cause can be lost for ever whose cost  
Is coined from Freedom's blood.

Liberty's wine and altar  
Are blood and human right ;  
Her weak shall be strong, while the struggle with  
    wrong  
Is a sacrificial fight.

Earth for the people—their laws their own—  
An equal race for all :  
Though shattered and few, who to this are true  
Shall flourish the more they fall.

*JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS.*

## A VISTA.

SAD heart, what will the future bring  
To happier men when we are gone?  
What golden days shall dawn for them,  
Transcending all we gaze upon?

Will our long strife be laid at rest,  
The warfare of our blind desires  
Be merged in a perpetual peace  
And love illumine but harmless fires?

Shall faith, released from forms that chain  
And freeze the spirit while we pray,  
Expect with calm and ardent eyes  
The morning of death's brighter day?—

These things shall be! A loftier race  
Than e'er the world hath known, shall rise  
With flame of freedom in their souls,  
And light of science in their eyes.

They shall be pure from fraud, and know  
The names of priest and king no more;  
For them no placeman's hand shall hold  
The balances of peace and war.

They shall be gentle, brave, and strong,  
To spill no drop of blood, but dare  
All that may plant man's lordship firm  
On earth and fire and sea and air.

Nation with nation, land with land,  
In armed shall live as comrades free ;  
In every heart and brain shall throb  
The pulse of one fraternity.

They shall be simple in their homes  
And splendid in their public ways,  
Filling the mansions of the state  
With music and with hymns of praise.

In aisles majestic, halls of pride,  
Groves, gardens, baths, and galleries,  
Manhood and youth and age shall meet  
To grow by converse inly wise.

Woman shall be man's mate and peer,  
In all things strong and fair and good,  
Still wearing on her brows the crown  
Of sinless sacred motherhood.

High friendship, hitherto unknown,  
Or by great poets half divined,  
Shall burn, a steadfast star, within  
The calm clear ether of the mind.

Man shall love man with heart as pure  
And fervent as the young-eyed joys  
Who chaunt their heavenly songs before  
God's face with undiscordant noise.

New arts shall bloom of loftier mould,  
And mightier music thrill the skies,  
And every life shall be a song,  
When all the earth is paradise.

There shall be no more sin, no shame,  
Though pain and passion may not die ;  
For man shall be at one with God  
In bonds of firm necessity.

These things—they are no dream—shall be  
For happier men when we are gone :  
Those golden days for them shall dawn,  
Transcending aught we gaze upon.

*WILFRID SCAWEN BLUNT.*

## A PLEA FOR EGYPT.

(FROM "THE WIND AND THE WHIRLWIND," 1883.)

I HAVE a thing to say. But how to say it?

I have a cause to plead. But to what ears?

How shall I move a world by lamentation—

A world which heeded not a Nation's tears?

How shall I speak of justice to the aggressors,—

Of right to Kings whose rights include all wrong,—

Of truth to Statecraft, true but in deceiving,—

Of peace to Prelates, pity to the Strong ?

Where shall I find a hearing ? In high places ?

The voice of havoc drowns the voice of good.

On the throne's steps ? The elders of the nation

Rise in their ranks and call aloud for blood.

Where ? In the street ? Alas for the world's reason !

Not Peers, not Priests alone this deed have done.

The clothes of those high Hebrews stoning Stephen

Were held by all of us—ay, every one.

Yet none the less I speak. Nay, here by Heaven

This task at least a poet best may do,—

To stand alone against the mighty many,

And force a hearing for the weak and few.

## SONNET.

(FROM "IN VINCULIS.")

LONG have I searched the earth for liberty,  
In desert places and lands far abroad,  
Where neither kings nor constables should be,  
Nor any law of Man, alas, or God.  
Freedom, Equality, and Brotherhood,  
These were my quarries, which eternally  
Fled from my footsteps fast as I pursued,  
Sad phantoms of desire by land and sea.  
See, it is ended. Sick and overborne  
By foes and fools, and my long chase, I lie—  
Here, in these walls, with all life's soul forlorn  
Hherded I wait,—and in my ears the cry,  
" Alas, poor brothers, equal in Man's scorn,  
And free in God's good liberty to die."

*JOHN STUART BLACKIE.*

## A SONG OF SCOTTISH HEROES.

I'LL sing you a song, if you'll hear me like men,  
Of the land of the mountain, the rock, and the glen,  
And the heroes who bled for the old Scottish cause,  
When the Southron insulted our kirk and our laws;

For we'll make a stand for Scotland yet, the Wallace  
and the Bruce,

Though frosty wits may sneer at home, and Cockneys  
pour abuse !

With the fire of Robert Burns, and the faith of stout  
John Knox,

We'll be more than a match for the smooth English  
folks !

In the moor and the mountain, the strath and the glen,  
Every rock tells a tale of the brave Scottish men,  
Of the high-hearted martyrs, who made the king pause,  
When he swindled our freedom, and trampled on our laws.

The king lost his head—fools may whimper and whine ;  
But he lost it, believe me, by judgment divine,  
When he came, a crowned traitor, to pick wicked flaws  
In the Covenant, the bond of our old Scottish cause.

Our kings were the godly, the grey-plaied men,  
Who preached on the mountains, and prayed in the glen,  
When the weak shuffling Charles, who swore false to the  
cause,  
Sent his troopers to tramp on the old Scottish laws.

There are prigs who will sneer, there are snobs who will  
laugh,  
There are fools who will frown, when this bumper I quaff;  
But here's to the men, who, like grey granite wa's,  
Stood firm, when the Stuart down-trampled our laws.

They bled on the bleak moor, they hung on a tree,  
They pined in black dungeons, were drowned in the sea;  
But their blood was the cement that soldered our laws,  
When they bled for their faith in the old Scottish cause.

Then here's to the men who made monarchs to quail,  
Cargill and Cameron, Guthrie, McKail;  
Their fame shall be sounded with deathless applause,  
Who fought, bled, and died for our kirk and our laws !  
For we'll make a stand for Scotland yet, the Wallace  
and the Bruce,  
Though frosty wits may sneer at home, and Cockneys  
pour abuse !  
With the fire of Robert Burns, and the faith of stout  
John Knox,  
We'll be more than a match for the smooth English  
folks !

*ERIC MACKAY.*

## FROM "A CHORAL ODE TO LIBERTY."

O SUNLIKE Liberty, with eyes of flame,  
Mother and maid, immortal, man's Delight !  
Fairest and first art thou in name and fame,  
And none shall rob thee of thy vested right.  
Where is the man, though fifty times a king,  
Shall stay the tide, or countermand the spring ?  
And where is he, though fifty times a knave,  
Shall track thy steps to cast thee in a grave ?

Old as the sun art thou, and young as morn,  
And fresh as April when the breezes blow,  
And girt with glory like the growing corn,  
And undefiled like mountains made of snow.  
Oh, thou'rt the summer of the souls of men,  
And poor men's rights, approved by sword and pen,  
Are made self-certain as the day at noon,  
And fair to view as flowers that grow in June.

Look, where erect and tall thy Symbol waits,\*  
The gift of France to friends beyond the deep,  
A lofty presence at the ocean-gates  
With lips of peace and eyes that cannot weep ;

\* Bertoldi's Statue of Liberty in New York harbour.

A new-born Tellus with uplifted arm  
To light the seas, and keep the land from harm—  
To light the coast at downfall of the day,  
And dower with dawn the darkening water-way.

*O sunlike Liberty, with eyes of flame,  
Mother and maid, immortal, stern of vow !  
Fairest and first art thou in name and fame,  
And thou shalt wear the lightning on thy brow !*

*H. E. CLARKE.*

A REBEL RIDING SONG.

RIDE on, ride on, for the night is gone,  
And dawn is in the sky,  
And overhead in our rebel red  
The banners of morning fly.  
The starry watch from their places go,  
The bugler winds reveillée blow,  
And a tryst's to keep with a waiting foe,  
Or ever the noon is high.

We watch the flight of the day and night,  
The shadows are fain to cling ;  
But the sunshafts quiver on field and river,  
Night's hosts fly shuddering,  
As when we charge through the field that nears  
From the level points of our headlong spears  
Shall fly the guardsmen and grenadiers  
Of our gracious Lord the King.

Ride fast, ride fast, lest the time be past—  
Ride, lest they deem us slow ;  
Friends may be late, but the tryst of hate  
Must be kept to the hour with a foe.  
We are ready to fight, we are ready to die,  
We are ready for all things except to fly ;  
Ride on, ride fast, ride merrily,  
Keep time to the song we know.

For we ride along to a stirring song,  
And this is the song we sing :  
Up with the red ! Bury the dead !  
Loud let the bugles ring !  
And off with every tonsured pate !  
And down with priests and all their prate !  
And down with Church, and down with State !  
And down with Crown and King !

*WILLIAM SHEARER-AITKIN.*

## HURRAH FOR SCOTLAND'S HEROES BRAVE.

O GI'E me pooer to sing a sang,  
While on this hill I stand,  
And look wi' wond'rous gaze alang  
A free and fertile land,  
Upon the grund our grandsires trod  
In ages lang gone by,  
Wha focht for freedom and for God,  
And werena feart to die.

Hurrah for Scotland's heroes brave  
In ages lang gone by,  
Who focht for freedom and for God,  
And werena feart to die.

Down there, whaur grows the yellow grain,  
Beside the grassy mead,  
And up in yonder windin' glen  
Whaur sheep and cattle feed,  
Lang standin' stanes mark out the place  
They bravely focht and bled,  
When tyrant foes wi' ruthless grace  
Their country would invade.

While gazing round, methinks I see  
These brave, bold-hearted men  
Come marching down to pibroch glee  
The shaggy, bushy glen,

Donnèd in tartan plaid and kilt  
And shield weel battle-tried,  
And hung in buckl'd leathern belt  
A broad sword by their side.

Ay, and methinks I see them raise  
Their sword above them bare,  
And hear them shout their country's praise  
With wild defiant air;  
Then rush upon their tyrant foes,  
When rose the battle-cry,  
And hand to hand around them close,  
Without a fear to die.  
Hurrah for Scotland's heroes brave  
In ages lang gone by,  
Who focht for Freedom and for God,  
And werena feart to die.

*ROBERT BIRD.*

## THE FREEDOM OF THE HILLS.

THERE's gloom upon yon mountain brow,  
There's darkness in yon glen,  
No more the white fall sparkles now  
In yonder hazy den.  
Hushed are the tuneful groves, the sun  
Beams not on babbling rills,  
Strong hands are taking one by one  
The freedom of the hills !

Oh ! what is Scotland's greatest pride ?  
Is it her streams and fountains,  
Lochs, isles, and dark woods spreading wide ?  
Nay ! 'tis her glorious mountains !  
Where granite grey, and shingly sheen  
Fling back the sun together,  
'Mong yellow whins and bracken green,  
And fragrant purple heather.

Shall men give up their free resort  
That squires, with gun and cartridge,  
May have their brief and bloody sport  
'Mong pheasant, grouse, and partridge ?

That deer, who seek the lonely place,  
To which their trust has drawn them,  
May never see a human face  
Till murder bursts upon them?

What climbing Scot could tamely see  
Upon a mountainous border,  
“ This hill path shall alone be free  
To sporting lords. By order.”—  
As well lay tolls upon men’s eyes,  
Arrest the clouds’ swift motion,  
Trap the free air, divide the skies,  
And parcel out the ocean.

Ye gentle folks who walk in silk,  
And dream of feudal vassals,  
You’re welcome to your hands of milk,  
Your gardens, parks, and castles ;  
But do not try to filch away  
The free paths of the people,  
Or ye may hear some sunny day  
Th’ alarum bell in the steeple.

’Tis ever from the darkest cloud,  
Brooding in mourning deep,  
That crackling thunder volleys loud,  
And jagged lightnings leap ;  
And from the gloom o’er wood and lake  
A warning murmur thrills,—  
Woe to the hand that tries to take  
The freedom of the hills !

**THE CROFTER'S FAREWELL.**

FAREWELL to the cot 'mong the whins and the bracken,  
The sand in the bay, and the rocks on the shore,  
To deep-sounding Staffa, and beauteous Kyleaken,—  
I leave thee, perchance to return nevermore.  
The birds sing as sweet by thy clear springing fountains,  
The sun shines as bright on the hills and the sea,  
But o'er thy deep valleys and high, swelling mountains  
The soft winds of freedom no longer blow free.

Green straths to the sheep have been given without measure,  
And glens to the deer, for the stranger to kill,  
And all for a proud chieftain's profit or pleasure,  
Thy clans are dispersed like the mist on the hill.  
Where once were the hamlet, the shielings, the gardens,  
And rustic contentment and industry dwelt,  
Cold hearths, ruined walls, and green mounds are the wardens  
That mark the lost home of the poor vanished Celt.

But who can forget as he treads the red heather,  
And hears the lost voices that rise on the breeze,  
The men who have gone in their hundreds together  
To crowd the dark cities, or cross the wide seas.  
I'd rather for life be a poor humble toiler,  
With conscience from outrage and cruelty clear,  
Than of lonely hearths be a careless despoiler,  
To make them the home of the sheep and the deer.

The nation that sleeps while her children are banished,  
Who stood like a guard round her wave-beaten shore,  
Will some day awake with a cry to the vanished,  
A cry for the feet that return nevermore.  
My breast heaves with sighs as I leave thee for ever,  
To think that man's pleasure should work such deep  
woe;  
Forget thy dear mountains? Ah, no, I shall never  
Forget thee till Highland blood ceases to flow.

—From *Law Lyrics*.

*TIMOTHY D. SULLIVAN.*

## GOD SAVE IRELAND !

IN MEMORY OF THE EXECUTION OF WILLIAM P.  
ALLEN, MICHAEL LARKIN, AND MICHAEL O'BRIEN,  
23RD NOVEMBER 1867.

HIGH upon the gallows tree  
Swung the noble-hearted Three,  
By the vengeful tyrant stricken in their bloom ;  
But they met him face to face,  
With the courage of their race,  
And they went with souls undaunted to their doom.  
“ God save Ireland ! ” said the heroes ;  
“ God save Ireland ! ” said they all :  
“ Whether on the scaffold high  
Or the battle-field we die,  
Oh, what matter, when for Erin dear we fall ! ”

Girt around with cruel foes,  
Still their spirit proudly rose,  
For they thought of hearts that loved them, far and near ;  
Of the millions true and brave  
O'er the ocean's swelling wave,  
And the friends in holy Ireland ever dear.  
“ God save Ireland ! ” said they proudly ;  
“ God save Ireland ! ” said they all :  
“ Whether on the scaffold high  
Or the battle-field we die,  
Oh, what matter, when for Erin dear we fall ! ”

Climbed they up the rugged stair,  
Rung their voices out in prayer,  
Then with England's fatal cord around them cast,  
Close beneath the gallows tree,  
Kissed like brothers lovingly,  
True to home and faith and freedom to the last.  
“God save Ireland !” prayed they loudly ;  
“God save Ireland !” said they all :  
“Whether on the scaffold high  
Or the battle-field we die,  
Oh, what matter, when for Erin dear we fall !”

Never till the latest day  
Shall the memory pass away  
Of the gallant lives thus given for our land ;  
But on the cause must go,  
Amid joy or weal or woe,  
Till we've made our isle a nation free and grand.  
“God save Ireland !” say we proudly,  
“God save Ireland !” say we all :  
“Whether on the scaffold high  
Or the battle-field we die,  
Oh, what matter, when for Erin dear we fall !”

*MICHAEL SCANLAN.*

[The following poem has been described as the Marseillaise of the Fenian movement.]

## THE FENIAN MEN.

SEE who come over the red-blossomed heather,  
Their green banners kissing the pure mountain air,  
Heads erect, eyes to front, stepping proudly together;  
Sure Freedom sits throned in each proud spirit there !  
Down the hills twining,  
Their blessed steel shining,  
Like rivers of beauty they flow from each glen—  
From mountain and valley  
'Tis Liberty's rally,  
Out, and make way for the Fenian Men !

Our prayers and our tears have been scoffed and derided,  
They've shut out God's sunlight from spirit and mind;  
Our foes were united and we were divided;  
We met, and they scattered us all to the wind :  
But once more returning,  
Within our veins burning  
The fires that illumined dark Aherlow glen,  
We raise the old cry anew,  
Slogan of Con and Hugh—  
Out, and make way for the Fenian Men !

We have men from the Nore, from the Suir, and the Shannon;  
Let the tyrants come forth, we'll bring force against force;  
Our pen is the sword, and our voice is the cannon,  
Rifle for rifle, and horse against horse.  
We've made the false Saxon yield  
Many a red battle-field;  
God on our side, we will do so again:  
Pay them back woe for woe,  
Give them back blow for blow,  
Out, and make way for the Fenian Men !

Side by side for this cause have our forefathers battled,  
When our hills never echoed the tread of a slave;  
On many green fields, where the leaden hail rattled,  
Thro' the red gap of glory they marched to the grave.  
And we, who inherit  
Their names and their spirit,  
Will march 'neath our Banners of Liberty; then  
All who love Saxon law,  
Native or Sassenah,  
Out, and make way for the Fenian men !

Up for the cause, then, fling forth our green Banners,  
From the east to the west, from the south to the north,—  
Irish land, Irish men, Irish mirth, Irish manners,—  
From the mansion and cot let the slogan go forth.  
Sons of old Ireland, now,  
Love you our ireland, now?  
Come from the kirk, or the chapel, or glen:  
Down with all faction old;  
Concert, and action bold,—  
*This is the creed of the Fenian Men !*

*ERNEST BILTON.*

## DIVES AND LAZARUS.

DID you ever hear of Dives, who lived in Palestine ?  
A marvellous rich man was he, well clothed in superfine.  
His table groaned with wealth of food, his wines by  
gallons ran—  
No wonder he grew sleek and stout, just like an alder-  
man !  
Another man named Lazarus, homeless and sick and  
poor,  
In hopes to beg the rich man's crumbs, lay at the rich  
man's door ;  
He heard the sounds of mirth within, but not a friend  
had he,  
Except the dogs, who licked his sores in silent sympathy.  
    You'll think it strange that such a thing could  
    happen here below,  
    But this was in a far-off land, a long while ago.

Now Dives daily feasted, and was gorgeously arrayed,  
Not at all because he liked it, but because 'twas good for  
trade ;  
That the people might have calico he clothed himself in  
silk,  
And surfeited himself on cream that they might get the  
milk ;

He fed five hundred servants that the poor might not lack bread,  
And had his vessels made of gold that they might get more lead.  
And e'en to show his sympathy with the deserving poor,  
He did no useful work himself that they might do the more.

You'll think this very, very strange, but then of course you know,  
'Twas in a far-off country, and a long while ago.

Poor Lazarus at length became too weak with Death to strive—

He was evidently not one of the fittest to survive—  
So on one frosty night, about a quarter-past eleven,  
He looked up at the silent stars, and died, and went to heaven.

Now Dives too was waxing old, and presently fell ill,  
Whereon a lawyer was called in to make a mighty will;  
And when Dives' sons and daughters came to hear his last farewell,

He bade them follow in his steps, then died, and went to hell !

I don't think God would venture now to treat a rich man so,  
But this was such a long way off—and so very long ago !

*EDITH BLAND ("E. NESBIT").*

## ALL IN ALL.

WHEN all the night is horrible with clamour  
    Of voiceless curses darker than the night,  
When light of sun there is not, neither starshine,  
    Nor any beacon on the hill of Right,  
Shine, O thou Light of Life, upon our pathway,—  
    Freedom, be thou our light !

Since all life's ways are difficult and dreary,  
    And false steps echo through eternity,  
And there is nought to lean on as we journey  
    By paths not smooth as downward paths would be,  
We have no other help—we need no other ;  
    Freedom, we lean on thee !

The slave's base murmur and the threat of tyrants,  
    The voice of cowards who cringe and cry "Retreat,"  
The whisper of the world, "Come where power calls  
    thee!"  
The whisper of the flesh, "Let life be sweet."  
Silence all these with thy divine commanding ;  
    Guide thou thy children's feet !

For thee, for thee we bear the cross, the banner,  
For thee are all our battles fought and won ;  
For thee was every prayer we ever uttered,  
For thee has every deed of ours been done ;  
To thee we press—to thee, triumphant splendour  
O Freedom, lead us on !

Where thou shalt lead we do not fear to follow.  
Thou hast our hearts; we follow them in thee.  
Spirit of Light, whatever thou shalt show us,  
Strong in the faith, we shall not fear to see ;  
We reach to thee through all the waves of darkness  
Of all the days to be.

*JAMES LEIGH JOYNES.*

### THE ROLL-CALL OF THE AGES.

HARK the voice of every nation  
'Mid its toil and tribulation  
Working out its own salvation,  
    Pressing onward to the goal .  
Bidding no man turn or tarry,  
Bidding each his burden carry,  
Till the bride her bridegroom marry,  
    Till earth's wounded hearts be whole ;  
Till the world-wide Revolution,  
In its triumph of ablution,  
Sweep each outworn institution  
Down the flood Time's waters roll.

Hark to those who went before us,  
Hero hearts whose death-pangs bore us,  
Us they call to swell their chorus,  
    Though they know not of our name.  
Let us follow where they lead us,  
Caring nought who hate or heed us,  
For the sake of them that need us  
    Recking lightly of the shame.  
Our's the faith that wins believers,  
Our's it is to scorn deceivers,  
Our's to know the world's great weavers  
    Of the storied west of fame.

What though all our hopes were failing,  
Every effort unavailing,  
All our music turned to wailing,  
    All our hearts with grief foredone ;  
Though our story were forgotten,  
And no grace or glory gotten,  
Though our faith and friends prove rotten,  
    Though thick night blot out our sun—  
Let them threaten us or palter,  
Let them proffer gold or halter,  
We at least will never falter  
    In the race we have to run.

Nay, no threat can e'er appal us,  
No mishap that may befall us ;  
Hark, the voice of those that call us  
    From the silence of the tomb.  
Saying, “ Our's the world-old story ;  
    Is not this enough of glory,  
To have paved the way before ye  
    Ere we went unto our doom ? ”  
Yea, we cry, though darkness hide ye,  
Yet a little while abide ye,  
We give thanks that still beside ye  
    E'en for us too there is room.

*FRED HENDERSON.*

## THE VOICE OF FREEDOM.

LOUD across the world it ringeth, we have heard it in  
our sleep—  
We have heard and we have wakened, though our  
slumbering was deep.  
Many a man whose heart nigh failed him in the long and  
weary night  
Now with soul aglow is watching for the dawning of the  
light.  
And the voice o'er all the nations has gone forth upon  
the wind,  
Bearing hope to those despairing, sight to those who  
wandered blind.  
“Wake, oh men,” the loud voice crieth, “wake, if ye  
be men indeed ;  
Will ye sleep and slumber ever, bound to serve a tyrant's  
greed?  
Surely all too long, oh toilers, have ye been the slaves of  
gold ;  
Are ye men, or have ye quite forgotten of your sires of old ?  
Hope not Freedom from the masters who reap pleasure  
from your pain ;  
All the freedom they would give you is but lengthening  
of the chain.  
When they see ye pale and restless, they may lengthen it  
a whit,  
Soothing ye the while to slumber, that ye be content  
with it.

Shake it from you altogether: come, clasp hands, the  
night is late,  
And the golden dawn is flushing round about the eastern  
gate."

And we rise, our chains upon us, at the voice that thrills  
us through.

Lo, the piteous sight that greets us: we are but a  
weakened few,

And around us lie our comrades, knowing not the bonds  
they wear,  
Seeing not the light we gaze at, feeling not the hope we  
bear.

Loudly, loudly let us call them. See them rising one  
by one,

Till our little band grows stronger underneath the rising  
sun.

Free we must be. In our souls the seraph voice of  
Liberty

Thrills till every chord is trembling as a harpstring's  
melody.

See, the clouds begin to scatter; brighter, brighter  
grows the day;

Happy we to see the morning hold the long, long night  
at bay!

We, the toilers, shall no longer be the passive driven  
slaves;

We have seen a nobler future. What though pierced  
with many graves

Be the way that leads to freedom? Shall we shun the  
glorious day

Though our very names should perish in the eagerness of  
fray?

Lo, our hearts are set upon it, and our feet are on the road:  
Burn the bridge, and let us forward,—on to Liberty's  
abode!

*WALTER CRANE.*

FREEDOM IN AMERICA.

WHERE is thy home, O Freedom? Have they set  
Thine image up upon a rock to greet  
All comers shaking from their wandering feet  
The dust of the old world bondage, to forget  
The tyrannies of fraud and force, nor fret,  
Where men are equal, slavish chain unmeet;  
Nor bitter bread of discontent to eat,  
Here, where all races of the earth are met?  
America! beneath thy banded flag  
Of old it was thy boast that men were free,  
To think, to speak, to meet, to come, to go.  
What meaneth then the gibbet and the gag  
Held up to Labour's sons who would not see  
Fair Freedom but a mask—a hollow show?

*THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON.*

HEIRS OF TIME.

INSCRIBED TO EDWARD BELLAMY.

FROM street and square, from hill and glen  
Of this vast world before my door,  
I hear the tread of marching men,  
The patient armies of the poor.

The halo of the city's lamps  
Hangs, a vast torchlight, in the air;  
I watch it through the evening damps ;  
The masters of the world are there.

Not ermine-clad or clothed in state,  
Their title-deeds not yet made plain,  
But waking early, toiling late,  
The heirs of all the earth remain.

Some say, by laws as fixed and fair  
As guide the planets in their sweep,  
The children of each outcast heir  
The harvest-fruits of time shall reap.

The peasant brain shall yet be wise,  
The untamed pulse grow calm and still;  
The blind shall see, the lowly rise  
And work in peace Time's wondrous will.

Some day, without a trumpet's call,  
This news will o'er the earth be blown :  
“ The heritage comes back to all !  
The myriad monarchs take their own ! ”

*JAMES JEFFREY ROCHE.*

## FOR THE PEOPLE.

WE are the hewers and delvers who toil for another's gain,—  
The common clods and the rabble, stunted of brow and brain.  
What do we want, the gleaners, of the harvest we have reaped?  
What do we want, the neuters, of the honey we have heaped?

We want the drones to be driven away from our golden hoard;  
We want to share in the harvest; we want to sit at the board;  
We want what sword or suffrage has never yet won for man,—  
The fruits of his toil God promised when the curse of toil began.

We have tried the sword and sceptre, the cross and the sacred word,  
In all the years, and the kingdom is not yet here of the Lord.  
Is it useless, all our waiting? Are they fruitless, all our prayers?  
Has the wheat, while men were sleeping, being oversown with tares?

What gain is it to the people that a God laid down his life,  
If, twenty centuries after, his world be a world of strife ?  
If the serried ranks be facing each other with ruthless eyes,  
And steel in their hands, what profits a Saviour's sacrifice ?

Ye have tried, and failed to rule us ; in vain to direct  
have tried.  
Not wholly the fault of the ruler, not utterly blind the guide ;  
Mayhap there needs not a ruler, mayhap we can find the way.  
At least ye have ruled to ruin, at least ye have led astray.

What matter if king or consul or president holds the rein,  
If crime and poverty ever be links in the bondman's chain ?  
What careth the burden-bearer that Liberty packed his load,  
If Hunger presseth behind him with a sharp and ready goad ?

There's a serf whose chains are of paper ; there's a king with a parchment crown ;  
There are robber knights and brigands in factory, field, and town.  
But the vassal pays his tribute to a lord of wage and rent ;  
And the baron's toll is Shylock's, with a flesh-and-blood per cent.

The seamstress bends to her labour all night in a narrow room ;  
The child, defrauded of childhood, tiptoes all day at the loom.  
The soul must starve, for the body can barely on husks be fed ;  
And the loaded dice of a gambler settle the price of bread.

Ye have shorn and bound the Samson and robbed him of learning's light ;  
But his sluggish brain is moving, his sinews have all their might.  
Look well to your gates of Gaza, your privilege, pride, and caste !  
The Giant is blind and thinking, and his locks are growing fast.

*FRANCIS A. FAHY.*

A REBEL HEART.

FROM rebel veins my life I drew,  
In rebel arms I lay,  
From rebel lips the lessons knew  
That led me day by day;  
And rocked to rest on rebel breast,  
And nursed on rebel knee,  
There woke and grew, for weal or rue,  
A rebel heart in me.

A rebel heart, a rebel heart !  
From taint of thraldom free;  
God strengthen still, through good and ill,  
A rebel heart in me !

My home was where the Moher heights  
Rise rugged o'er the wave,  
And nature's scenes and nature's sights  
Forbade me live a slave.  
The billows on the crag that crashed  
Still thundered "Liberty" !  
And at the cry throbbed fast and high  
The rebel heart in me.

I read my country's chequered page,  
I sang her deathless songs,  
I wept her woes from age to age,  
And burned to right her wrongs:  
And when I saw to British law  
She never bent the knee,  
Oh, prouder yet for Ireland beat  
The rebel heart in me.

I've wandered east, I've wandered west,  
'Mid scenes and faces strange,  
And passing years have in my breast  
Worked many a wondrous change:  
One hope of old still firm I hold,  
And cold in earth I'll be,  
Ere breaks or fails or sinks or quails  
The rebel heart in me.

A rebel heart, a rebel heart !  
From taint of thraldom free ;  
God strengthen still, through good and ill,  
The rebel heart in me !

*FANNY PARNELL.*

1848—1882.

## POST MORTEM.

SHALL mine eyes behold thy glory, O my country !  
Shall mine eyes behold thy glory ?  
Or shall the darkness close around them, ere the sun-blaze  
Break at last upon thy story ?

When the nations ope for thee their queenly circle,  
As a sweet new sister hail thee,  
Shall these lips be sealed in callous death and silence,  
That have known but to bewail thee ?

Shall the ear be deaf that only loved thy praises,  
When all men their tribute bring thee ?  
Shall the mouth be clay, that sang thee in thy squalor,  
When all poets' mouths shall sing thee ?

Ah ! the harpings and the salvos and the shoutings  
Of thy exiled sons returning !  
I should hear, though dead and mouldered, and the  
grave-damps  
Should not chill my bosom's burning.

Ah ! the tramp of feet victorious ! I should hear them  
'Mid the shamrocks and the mosses,  
And my heart should toss within the shroud and quiver,  
As a captive dreamer tosses.

I should turn and rend the cere-clothes round me,  
Giant sinews I should borrow,  
Crying, "O my brothers, I have also loved her,  
In her loneliness and sorrow.

" Let me join with you the jubilant procession,  
Let me chant with you her story;  
Then contented I shall go back to the shamrocks  
Now mine eyes have seen her glory."

*JOHN BARLAS ("Evelyn Douglas").*

LE JEUNE BARBAROUX.

[Charles Barbaroux, the ablest and most enthusiastic of the Girondists, a friend of the minister Roland, was proscribed by Robespierre in 1793, and, after a year's wandering, was captured and guillotined.]

PASSENGER, pilgrim in the land of fear,  
The sound of Death's feet growing in thine ear,  
    The sight of Death's face rising on thy view,  
What change in thee since this time yester-year !  
    Young Barbaroux.

Bright-haired Apollo with the hero's eyes,  
That dreamest dreams too fair for earthly skies,  
    Man free and equal, all things fair and true,  
What shadows dark across thy dream arise ?  
    Young Barbaroux.

Where now thy France? where now the chosen band  
Of thy companions? where the fair Roland?  
    All these are gone, and what thing left to you?  
Perchance the gallows in some foreign land!  
    Young Barbaroux.

• • • • •

Faithful to death, unchanged by fear or grief,  
Clinging, brave boy, to thy sublime belief,  
    Clasp to thy heart the poor red, white and blue;  
The seed shall spring yet from the ruined sheaf,  
    Young Barbaroux.

The flag, that covered France too short a while  
With holy shade, now fear and blood defile,  
    And through the world deep threatening storm-  
clouds brew.  
Look through to clearer heavens beyond, and smile,  
    Young Barbaroux.

Freedom, her arm outstretched but lips firm set,  
Freedom, her eyes with tears of pity wet,  
    But her robe splashed with drops of bloody dew,  
Freedom, thy goddess, is our goddess yet,  
    Young Barbaroux.

Freedom, that tore the robe from kings away,  
That clothed the beggar-child in warm array,  
    Freedom, the hand that raised, the hand that slew,  
Freedom, divine then, is divine to-day,  
    Young Barbaroux.

We drown, we perish in a surging sea;  
We are not equal, brotherly, nor free;—  
    Who from this death shall stoop and raise us? who?  
Thy Freedom, and the memory of such as thee,  
    Young Barbaroux.

## STANZAS FROM "THE GOLDEN CITY."

THEY be happy men that dwell there  
In that serene abode;  
They have no heaven nor hell there,  
Nor fear of fiend or god;  
Each by his soul's light steering,  
Not resting, neither veering,  
Nor coveting nor fearing  
The recompense or rod.

There gorgeous Plato's spirit  
Hangs brooding like a dove,  
And all men born inherit  
Love free as gods above;  
There each one is to other  
A sister or a brother,  
A father or a mother,  
A lover or a love.

And the seer's words take measure,  
And thought is music-shod,  
And the young man sings of pleasure  
With the wisdom of a god,  
And the old man's mystic dreaming  
Is of faith beyond the seeming,  
Of the shifting ocean teeming  
With the isles where Truth has trod.

Of the dim-eyed captives fettered  
    In the cave of spectral night,  
And the rays on darkness scattered  
    By the sun of truth and light,  
Of the Love that leads us higher,  
    And nigher still and nigher  
To the fount of light and fire,  
    To the source of Good and Right.

And the spray of myrtle chases  
    The bowl around the board,  
And they chant with glowing faces,  
    And they smite the thrilling chord  
To the love of youth and woman,  
    To the goddess of the true man,  
To the Freedom of all human,  
    And her champion the sword.

*SYDNEY OLIVIER.*

## TO A REVOLUTIONARY POET.

BECAUSE you could not choose to cramp  
Your stripling soul in custom's mail,  
Nor prate the catchwords of the camp,  
Nor strive to shine, nor fear to fail,  
Therefore your soul was made aware  
Of many secrets of the air.

Because you could not choose but hear  
The weary rumour underground,  
Though all your fellows closed their ear,  
Or knew no meaning in the sound,  
Therefore your ear and voice grew free  
Of all the moods of melody.

Because from week to week you wrought  
Through Rhyme or Reason to make plain  
The burden of our age's thought  
For toiling and untutor'd men,  
You earned a master-craftsman's skill  
To marshal words to speak your will.

Because your heart was wont to move  
Less for its own than other's pain,  
Because you did not fear to love  
With only loving for your gain,  
The tedious years have had no power  
Your sturdy cheerfulness to sour.

Comrade, because your soul was free,  
Because in strife with gloom and wrong  
Your ear and pen learnt mastery,  
Because your heart was blithe and strong,  
Therefore for us these songs of yours  
Breathe of the beauty that endures.

*WILLIAM MORRIS.*

## ALL FOR THE CAUSE !

HEAR a word, a word in season, for the day is drawing  
nigh,  
When the Cause shall call upon us—some to live, and  
some to die !

He that dies shall not die lonely, many an one hath gone  
before,  
He that lives shall bear no burden heavier than the life  
they bore.

Nothing ancient is their story, e'en but yesterday they  
bled,  
Youngest they of earth's beloved, last of all the valiant  
dead.

E'en the tidings we are telling was the tale they had to  
tell,  
E'en the hope that our hearts cherish, was the hope for  
which they fell.

In the grave where tyrants thrust them, lies their labour  
and their pain,  
But undying from their sorrow springeth up the hope  
again.

Mourn not therefore, nor lament it that the world out-lives their life;  
Voice and vision yet they give us, making strong our hands for strife.

Some had name and fame and honour, learn'd they were,  
and wise and strong,  
Some were nameless, poor, unlettered, weak in all but grief and wrong.

Named and nameless all live in us; one and all they lead us yet  
Every pain to count for nothing, every sorrow to forget.

Hearken how they cry, "Oh, happy, happy ye that ye were born  
In the sad slow night's departing, in the rising of the morn;

" Fair the crown the Cause hath for you, well to die or well to live,  
Through the battle, through the tangle, peace to gain or peace to give."

Ah, it may be ! Oft meseemeth, in the days that yet shall be,  
When no slave of gold abideth 'twixt the breadth of sea to sea,

Oft, when men and maids are merry, ere the sunlight leaves the earth,  
And they bless the day beloved, all too short for all their mirth,

Some shall pause awhile and ponder on the bitter days of old,  
Ere the toil of strife and battle overthrew the curse of gold;

Then 'twixt lips of loved and lover solemn thoughts of us shall rise;  
We who once were fools and dreamers, then shall be the brave and wise;

There amidst the world new-builded shall our earthly deeds abide,  
Though our names be all forgotten, and the tale of how we died.

Life or death then, who shall heed it, what we gain or what we lose?  
Fair flies life amid the struggle, and the Cause for each shall choose.

Hear a word, a word in season, for the day is drawing nigh,  
When the Cause shall call upon us, some to live, and some to die !

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#### NO MASTER.

SAITH man to man, We've heard and known  
That we no master need  
To live upon this earth, our own,  
In fair and manly deed ;

The grief of slaves long passed away  
For us hath forged the chain,  
Till now each worker's patient day  
Builds up the House of Pain.

And we, shall we too crouch and quail,  
Ashamed, afraid of strife ;  
And lest our lives untimely fail  
Embrace the death in life ?  
Nay, cry aloud and have no fear ;  
We few against the world ;  
Awake, arise ! the hope we bear  
Against the curse is hurl'd.

It grows, it grows : are we the same,  
The feeble band, the few ?  
Or what are these with eyes aflame,  
And hands to deal and do ?  
This is the host that bears the word,  
NO MASTER, HIGH OR LOW,  
A lightning flame, a shearing sword,  
A storm to overthrow.

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### THE MARCH OF THE WORKERS.

WHAT is this, the sound and rumour ? What is this that  
all men hear,  
Like the wind in hollow valleys when the storm is draw-  
ing near,  
Like the rolling on of ocean in the eventide of fear ?  
'Tis the people marching on.

Whither go they, and whence come they? What are  
these of whom ye tell?  
In what country are they dwelling 'twixt the gates of  
heaven and hell?  
Are they mine or thine for money? Will they serve a  
master well?

Still the rumour's marching on.  
Hark the rolling of the thunder!  
Lo the sun! and lo thereunder  
Riseth wrath and hope and wonder,  
And the host comes marching on.

Forth they come from grief and torment; on they wend  
toward health and mirth,  
All the wide world is their dwelling, every corner of the  
earth,  
Buy them, sell them for thy service! Try the bargain  
what 'tis worth,

For the days are marching on.  
These are they who build thy houses, weave thy raiment,  
win thy wheat,  
Smooth the rugged, fill the barren, turn the bitter into  
sweet,  
All for thee this day—and ever. What reward for them  
is meet,  
Till the host comes marching on?

Many a hundred years passed over have they laboured,  
deaf and blind;  
Never tidings reached their sorrow, never hope their toil  
might find.  
Now at last they've heard and hear it, and the cry comes  
down the wind,  
And their feet are marching on.

O ye rich men, hear and tremble ! for with words the sound is rife :

“ Once for you and death we laboured ; changed hence-forward is the strife.

We are men, and we shall battle for the world of men and life,

And our host is marching on.”

“ Is it war, then ? Will ye perish as the dry wood in the fire ?

Is it peace ? Then be ye of us, let your hope be our desire.

Come and live ! for life awaketh, and the world shall never tire ;

And the hope is marching on.”

“ On we march, then, we the workers, and the rumour that ye hear

Is the blended sound of battle and deliv'rance drawing near ;

For the hope of every creature is the banner that we bear,

And the world is marching on.”

Hark the rolling of the thunder !

Lo the sun ! and lo thereunder

Riseth wrath and hope and wonder,

And the host comes marching on.

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## A DEATH SONG.

What cometh here from west to east awending ?  
And who are these, the marchers stern and slow ?  
We bear the message that the rich are sending  
Aback to those who bade them wake and know.  
*Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,*  
*But one and all if they would dusk the day.*

We asked them for a life of toilsome earning,  
They bade us bide their leisure for our bread ;  
We craved to speak to tell our woful learning :  
We come back speechless, bearing back our dead.

They will not learn ; they have no ears to hearken.  
They turn their faces from the eyes of fate ;  
Their gay-lit halls shut out the skies that darken.  
But, lo ! this dead man knocking at the gate.

Here lies the sign that we shall break our prison ;  
Amidst the storm he won a prisoner's rest ;  
But in the cloudy dawn the sun arisen  
Brings us our day of work to win the best.  
*Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,*  
*But one and all if they would dusk the day.*

*FRANCIS W. L. ADAMS.*

OUTSIDE LONDON.

(PROEM TO "SONGS OF THE ARMY OF THE NIGHT.")

IN the black night, along the mud-deep roads,  
Amid the threatening boughs and ghastly streams,  
Hark ! sounds that gird the darknesses like goads,  
Murmurs and rumours and reverberent dreams,  
Tramplings, breaths, movements, and a little light—  
*The marching of the Army of the Night !*

The stricken men, the mad brute-beasts are keeping  
No more their places in the ditches and holes,  
But rise and join us, and the women, weeping  
Beside the roadways, rise like demon-souls.  
Fill up the ranks ! What shimmers there so bright ?  
*The bayonets of the Army of the Night !*

Fill up the ranks ! We march in steadfast column,  
In wavering lines yet forming more and more;  
Men, women, children, sombre, silent, solemn,  
Rank follows rank like billows to the shore.  
Dawnwards we tramp, towards the day and light.  
*On, on and up, the Army of the Night !*

## IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

THE stars shone faint through the smoky blue ;  
The church-bells were ringing ;  
Three girls, arms laced, were passing through,  
Tramping and singing.

Their heads were bare ; their short skirts swung  
As they went along ;  
Their scarf-covered breasts heaved up, as they sung  
Their defiant song.

It was not too clean, their feminine lay,  
But it thrilled me quite  
With its challenge to task-master villainous day  
And infamous night,

With its threat to the robber rich, the proud,  
The respectable free.  
And I laughed and shouted to them aloud,  
And they shouted to me !

*“ Girls, that’s the shout, the shout we shall utter  
When, with rifles and spades,  
We stand, with the old Red Flag aflutter,  
On the barricades !”*

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## “ANARCHISM.”

’Tis not when I am here,  
In these homeless homes,  
Where sin and shame and disease  
And foul death comes;

’Tis not when heart and brain  
Would be still and forget  
Men and women and children  
Dragged down to the pit:

But when I hear them declaiming  
Of “liberty,” “order,” and “law,”  
The husk-hearted gentleman  
And the mud-hearted bourgeois,

That a sombre hateful desire  
Burns up slow in my breast  
To wreck the great guilty temple,  
And give us rest.

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## TO ENGLAND.

## I.

THERE was a time when all thy sons were proud  
To speak thy name,  
England, when Europe echoed back aloud  
Thy fearless fame:

When Spain reeled shattered helpless from thy guns  
And splendid ire,  
When from Canadian snows to Indian suns  
Pitt's soul was fire.

O that in days like these were, fair and free  
From shame and scorn,  
Fate had allowed, benignly, pityingly,  
That I was born !

O that, if struck, then struck with glorious wounds,  
I bore apart  
(Not torn with fangs of leprous coward hounds)  
My bleeding heart !

## II.

We hate you—not because of cruel deeds  
Staining a glorious effort. They who live  
Learn in this earth to give and to forgive,  
Where heart and soul are noble and fate's needs  
Imperious: No, nor yet that cruel seeds  
Of power and wrong you've sown alternative,  
We hate you, we your sons who yet believe  
That truth and justice are not empty creeds !  
No, but because of greed and golden pay,  
Wages of sin and death : because you smother  
Your conscience, making cursèd all the day.  
Bible in one hand, bludgeon in the other,  
Cain-like you come upon and slay your brother,  
And, kneeling down, thank God for it, and pray !

## III.

I whom you fed with shame and starved with woe,  
I wheel above you,  
Your fatal vulture, for I hate you so,  
I almost love you !

I smell your ruin out. I light and croak  
My sombre lore,  
As swaggering you go by, O heart of oak  
Rotten to the core !

Look westward ! Ireland's vengeful eyes are cast  
On freedom won.  
Look eastward ! India stirs from sleep at last.  
You are undone !

Look southward, where Australia hears your voice,  
And turns away !  
O brutal hypocrite, she makes her choice  
With the rising day !

Foul Esau, you who sold your high birthright  
For gilded mud,  
Who did the wrong, and, priest-like, called it right,  
And swindled God !

*The hour is gone of insult, pain and patience ;  
The hour is come  
When they arise, the faithful mightier nations,  
To drag you down !*

## IV.

England, the land I loved  
With passionate pride,  
For hate of whom I live  
Who for love had died,

Can I, while shines the sun,  
That hour regain  
When I again may come to thee  
And love again ?

No, not while that flag  
Of greed and lust  
Flaunts in the air, untaught  
To drag the dust !—

Never, till expiant  
I see you kneel,  
And brandished gleams aloft  
The foeman's steel !

Ah, then to speed, and laugh,  
As my heart caught the knife:  
“*Mother, I love you ! Here,  
Here is my life !*”

*EDWARD CARPENTER.*

## THE SMITH AND THE KING.

A SMITH upon a summer's day  
Did call upon a King ;  
The King exclaimed, "The Queen's away,  
Can I do anything?"

"I pray you can," the Smith replied ;  
"I want a bit of bread."  
"Why?" cried the King. The fellow sighed :  
"I'm hungry, sire," he said.

"Dear me ! I'll call my Chancellor,  
He understands such things ;  
Your claims I cannot cancel, or  
Deem them fit themes for kings."

"Sir Chancellor, why here's a wretch  
Starving—like rats or mice!"  
The Chancellor replied, "I'll fetch  
The First Lord in a trice."

The First Lord came, and by his look  
You might have guessed he'd shirk ;  
Said he, "Your Majesty's mistook,  
This is the Chief Clerk's work."

The Chief Clerk said the case was bad,  
 But quite beyond his power,  
 Seeing it was the Steward had  
 The keys of cake and flour.

The Steward sobbed : “ The keys I’ve lost,  
 Alas ! but in a span  
 I’ll call the Smith. Why, Holy Ghost !  
 Here is the very man.”

“ Hurrah ! hurrah ! ” they loudly cried,  
 “ How cleverly we’ve done it !  
 We’ve solved this question, deep and wide,  
 Well-nigh ere we’d begun it.”

“ Thanks ! ” said the Smith ; “ O fools and vile,  
 Go rot upon the shelf !  
 The next time I am starving I’ll  
 Take care to help myself.”

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### ENGLAND, ARISE !

ENGLAND, Arise ! the long, long night is over,  
 Faint in the east, behold the dawn appear ;  
 Out of your evil dream of toil and sorrow—  
 Arise, O England, for the day is here ;  
 From your fields and hills,  
 Hark ! the answer swells—  
 Arise, O England, for the day is here !

By your young children's eyes so red with weeping,  
By their white faces aged with want and fear,  
By the dark cities where your babes are creeping,  
Naked of joy and all that makes life dear ;  
From each wretched slum  
Let the loud cry come ;  
Arise, O England, for the day is here !

People of England ! all your valleys call you,  
High in the rising sun the lark sings clear,  
Will you dream on, let shameful slumber thrall you ?  
Will you disown your native land so dear ?  
Shall it die unheard—  
That sweet pleading word ?  
Arise, O England, for the day is here !

Over your face a web of lies is woven,  
Laws that are falsehoods pin you to the ground,  
Labour is mocked, its just reward is stolen,  
On its bent back sits Idleness encrowned.  
How long, while you sleep,  
Your harvest shall It reap ?  
Arise, O England, for the day is here !

Forth, then, ye heroes, patriots and lovers !  
Comrades of danger, poverty, and scorn !  
Mighty in faith of Freedom your great Mother !  
Giants refreshed in Joy's new-rising morn !  
Come and swell the song,  
Silent now so long :  
England is risen !—and the day is here.

## THE AGE-LONG WAR.

(FROM "TOWARDS DEMOCRACY.")

I HEARD the long roar and surge of History, wave after wave—as of the never-ending surf along the immense coast-line of West Africa.

I heard the world-old cry of the down-trodden and outcast: I saw them advancing always to victory.

I saw the red light from the guns of established order and precedent—the lines of defence and the bodies of the besiegers rolling in dust and blood—yet more and ever more behind !

And high over the inmost citadel I saw magnificent, and beckoning ever to the besiegers, and the defenders ever inspiring, the cause of all that never-ending war—

The form of Freedom stand.

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## WHAT IS FREEDOM?

AND so I heard a voice say What is Freedom ?

I have heard (it said) the lions roaring in their dens; I have seen the polyp stretching its arms upwards from the floor of the deep;

I have heard the cries of slaves and the rattling of their chains, and the hoarse shout of victims rising against their oppressors; I have seen the deliverers dying calmly on the scaffold.

I have heard of the centuries-long struggle of nations for constitutional liberty—the step-by-step slowly-won approaches as to some inner and impregnable fastness;

I know the wars that have been waged, the flags flying to and fro over the earth; I know that one tyranny has been substituted for another, and that the forms of oppression have changed;

But what is Freedom?

Villeins and thralls become piece-men and day-tal men, and the bondsmen of the land become the bondsmen of Machinery and Capital; the escaped convicts of Labour fit admiringly the bracelets of Wealth round their own wrists.

I have seen the slaves of Opinion and Fashion, of Ignorance and of Learning, of Drink and Lust, of Chastity and Unchastity:

One skin cast leaves another behind, and that another, and that yet another;

I have seen over the world the daily fear of Death and Hell, of Pain and momentary overhanging Chance;

I have seen recluses craning their lives up into impossible heavens, thinkers hopelessly meditating after philosophic Truth, incurables lying covered with bed-sores, household drudges running from the hearth to the slopstone and from the slopstone to the hearth all their lives;

Something of all these slaveries I know—they are very well in their way—

But what is Freedom?

And I heard (in the height) another voice say :

I AM.

In the recluse, the thinker, the incurable and the drudge, I AM. I am the giver of Life, I am Happiness.

I am in the good and evil, in the fortunate and the unfortunate, in the gifted and the incapable, alike; I am not one more than the other.

The lion roaring in its den, and the polyp on the floor of the deep, the great deep itself, know ME.

The long advances of history, the lives of men and women—the men that scratched the reindeer and mammoth on bits of bone, the Bushmen painting their rude rock-paintings, the mud-hovels clustering round mediæval castles, the wise and kindly Arab with his loving boy-attendants, the Swiss mountain-herdsman, the Russian patriot, the English mechanic,

Know ME. I am Happiness in them, in all—underlying. I am the Master showing myself from time to time as occasion serves;

I am not nearer to one than the other; they do not seek me so much as I advance through them.

Out of all would YOU emerge?

Would you at last, O child of mine, after many toils and endless warfare (for without such all is in vain) emerge and become MY EQUAL?

(Wonderful, wonderful is this I tell you! Would you too become a Master—when you have seen and known all slaveries, and have ceased to put one before the other—)

Would you, whom I have often silently been with, to whom in the early morning I have come kissing you on the lips to leave Happiness for your waking, whom I have taught long and long my own ways, even for this—

become my Equal? would you look me at last in the face?

It shall be then. The way is long, but the centuries are long. Faint not. Does my voice sound distant? Faint not.

Even now for a moment round your neck, advancing, I stretch my arms; to my lips I draw you, I press upon your lips the seal of a covenant that cannot be forgotten.

CENTRAL CIRCULATION  
CHILDREN'S ROOM









